

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Far Eastern News	45
Leading Articles:—	
American Policy in China	46
Weather Forecasts	47
The Late Lord Ripon and Hongkong Politics	48
The British Budget	48
The Situation in Persia	49
Slavery in China	49
China's Sovereign Rights	50
Random Reflections	50
Hongkong News	51
Canton News	52
The New Chaplain of St. Andrew's Kowloon	52
Hongkong's New Statue	52
Supposed Murder Near Shauiwan	52
Alleged Milk Adulteration	52
Hongkong Legislative Council	53
Presentation to Mr. R. H. Baxter	54
V. R. C. Diamond Jubilee	54
An Interesting Point	54
Transfer of Licence Refused	55
Escaped Prisoner Recaptured	55
Notes from the Capital	55
A "Public Servant" Defined	55
Notes from Japan	56
Company Report:—	
Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., Ltd.	57
Half Yearly Dividends	57
Hongkong University	57
The Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd.	57
The White Wax of China	58
Chinese Mohammedans	58
China's Credit	58
Supreme Court	59
A Timely Discovery	61
Clever Capture of a Thief	61
A Soldier's Suicide	61
The Pratas	61
Typhoon Topics	62
French National Fete	62
Sanitation in Manila	62
Impending Invasion of Tourists	62
Likin at Chinkiang	63
The Call of the Shroff	63
Japanese Volcanoes	63
Taxation of Foreigners in Korea	63
Manila Hotel Project	63
Tientsin Chamber of Commerce	63
Shipping Notes	64
Chinese in the Philippines	64
Agitation Against the Chinese in Indo-China	64
Far Eastern Telegrams	65
The Anglo-Siam Treaty	65
Electric Tram Profits in Manila	65
The Christian Movement in Japan	65
Review	65
Commercial	66
Shipping	67

BIRTH.

On 28th June, at Shanghai, a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. F. HOPKINS.

DEATH.

On the 18th July at the Victoria Hospital, MARY, the beloved wife of C. BERKELEY MITCHELL, of Amoy, after long suffering patiently borne; aged 39 years.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail of the 16th ultimo arrived per s.s. *Prinz Ludwig* on the 14th inst.

The French Mail of the 18th ultimo arrived per s.s. *Ernest Simons* on the 19th inst.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD C1.

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FAR EASTERN NEWS.

The famine in the Kansu province is officially reported to be most acute.

It is reported that a Japanese has invented a bicycle to be used in the water, and has had it patented.

Mr. M. Noma, former Japanese Consul in Hongkong, has been appointed Second Consular Secretary at the Legation in Bangkok.

Two bankers from the Argentine are alleged to have escaped to the Far East, and are wanted for absconding with a large sum and committing frauds.

Mr. John Fowler, one of the most popular men in the American Consular Service and for many years Consul-General at Chefoo, has returned to Chefoo.

The Board of Directors of the Russo-Chinese Bank have declared the following dividends for the year 1908: Rbs. 7.50 per Roubles share; Rbs. 6.08½ per Shanghai Tael Share.

The old hulk of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, which was sunk at Swatow last September during a typhoon, has at last been blown up, thus removing a serious obstruction in Swatow harbour.

The decrease in the exports from Nagasaki to Hongkong in 1908 was as much as £71,435, and the British Consul in his annual report remarks that "doubtless the boycott in South China is accountable for a large proportion of this."

Mr. Amos P. Wilder, United States Consul-General, left Shanghai for America on Saturday evening, the 3rd inst., on a few months' leave. He is due back by November 1st. During his absence Mr. P. Heintzmann will have charge of the Consulate.

An examination has been held at Tientsin for the purpose of filling a vacancy in the Haiho Pilotage service. Captain Gordon, of the C. V. S. N. Co., proved the successful candidate. Captain Gordon was lately in command of the C. M. str. *Kungping*.

An interesting alteration to the code of procedure in the Courts of the Philippine Islands was recently made, by which the Spanish language will be the official language of the Court only up till January 1, 1913. After that date English will be the official language.

"She is not really my mother, but she is my mother," a small Chinese boy told Mr. Justice Gompertz in the Summary Court yesterday. In reply to another question he said, "I remember I was born in the country, and that my mother reared me and brought me up."

The Chinese Government intends, it is stated, to recommend H. E. Tang Shao-yi to be Commissioner of Financial Reform, so that he can help the Board of Finance to readjust the national finances and carry out the currency reform, which does not admit of any delay.

The *Seoul Press* says:—"It is learned from Quelpart that about 3,000 inhabitants of that island have been attacked by small-pox and died this year."

The *China Critic* says negotiations are now taking place for the selling of the Maoshan Gold Mines to the Chinese authorities for the sum of M. 300,000, this being the amount so far expended on their development by the German Syndicate in whose possession they now are.

What promises to be a prosperous branch of local commerce is engaging the activities of Chinwangtao. This is the export of slaughtered cattle to Vladivostok. The old Australian vessel *Hannamet* has been fitted up as a refrigerating ship. The cattle are killed on board before the boat leaves.

The Chinese Public Health Department has come to the conclusion that the cause of many diseases is in most cases traceable to the kerosine lamps used in the roast meat shops and fruit stalls, and has requested the police to order the proprietors of the shops to use foreign lamps with chimneys in future.

Mr. O. Feurich, until recently accountant in the Chief Auditor's department of the Siamese Royal Railway Department, who was travelling home by German Mail with Mr. O. Eckert, another Bangkok resident, was missed between Penang and Colombo, and it was concluded that he had fallen overboard.

The Hongkong Government have, says the *Rangoon Gazette*, applied to the Government of India for the services of an officer with railway experience to represent them in connection with railway problems now pending in Southern China, and the question of the necessary selection is understood to be under consideration.

There are now 12,000 Japanese in Saghalien, and between one and two hundred Russians. They all derive their livelihood from fishing, and it is confidently affirmed that if the veto placed upon the use of the *Sashimi* net remains in force these people will all have to leave the island. There is therefore a strong probability that the veto will be conditionally revoked.

It is observed by Tokyo newspapers that Queensland has ceased to have treaty relations with Japan. She duly adhered to the Treaty of Commerce between Great Britain and Japan concluded in 1894, but in consequence of her inclusion in the Commonwealth it became necessary for her to give notice of the termination of her adherence. The term of this notice expired on June 30.

The *China Critic* learns that the whole of the Haiho Conservancy's last loan has been taken up locally. When it was floated and underwritten by the Banque de L'Indo-Chine it was not expected that more than one quarter of the debentures would be disposed of there. The result, however, proves that there is still much money in Tientsin for favourable investment, as well as in likely speculation.

The death occurred at the Victoria Hospital, Tientsin, on 28th ult., of Mr. Thomas S. Woods, a well-known resident, who had been ailing for many months. He had a very adventurous career, and was at one time a man of means in Hongkong and Tientsin. Lately he has been in charge of Messrs. Jaques & Co.'s coal yard at Htutung and was in the hospital off and on for the past year. He was about 54 years of age and of Irish birth.

The celebration of American "Independence Day" in the Philippines, produced articles in the Filipino papers inquiring when the Philippines will celebrate their independence day. "The Philippines," says one paper, "have already undergone ten years of apprenticeship, and now firmly ask the granting of immediate independence."

A Chinese and Foreign Commission is at work in Tientsin endeavouring to find a remedy for the present unhealthy commercial conditions at that port. It has already held three meetings, but the death of Viceroy Yang, under whose auspices the commission was formed, has in the meantime checked its activity. It is believed, however, that the new Viceroy will forward the work of the Commission.

Comparative tests made by the Bureau of Science, says a Manila contemporary, have proved that machine stripped hemp fibre is much stronger than the hand stripped variety. This fact should be a factor in rehabilitating the Manila hemp in the foreign market, where it has lost much of its former world-wide reputation on account of the carelessness with which it was stripped and put up for shipment.

Messrs. Smith, Bell and Company, of Manila, have been awarded the contract for supplying 40,000 barrels of Portland cement to the Bureau of Supply. A Manila contemporary says that after a test of twenty-eight days by the Bureau of Science of the several brands of cement offered the plum has fallen to Dragon Brand of Haiphong cement for the coming year. The above firm has lately received the award of the 6,000 barrels of Dragon Brand cement for the Quartermasters Department.

His Majesty the King has approved of the following decorations conferred upon the recipients by the Emperor of China, in recognition of valuable services rendered by them:—Imperial Chinese Order of the Double Dragon—First Class of the Third Division—Messrs. James Acheson, A. H. Harris, J. W. Innocent, J. C. Johnston, F. W. Maze, O. G. Ready, and F. J. Smith. Second Class of the Third Division—Messrs. F. W. Carey and J. H. Marcoun. Third Class of the Third Division—Messrs. L. A. Byworth, T. B. J. Eldridge, J. H. May, R. O. Rutherford, H. D. Summers, and W. S. Wyles. Fourth Division—Messrs. J. Dalton, W. O. Pegge, and W. H. Williams.

Local stamp collectors will be interested to learn that a new set of British North Borneo stamps has been issued. These stamps replace the old issue from 1 cent to 24 cents inclusive. The local *Herald* presumes that the step has been rendered necessary in consequence of the recent forgeries of North Borneo stamps. The new stamps bear the following designs:—1 cent Tapir; 2 cents Travellers' palm; 3 cents View of part of Jesselton; 4 cents Meeting between H. H. the Sultan of Sulu and Mr. Cowie; 5 cents Elephant; 6 cents Rhinoceros; 8 cents Ploughing with buffalo; 10 cents Wild boar; 12 cents Cockatoo; 16 cents Hornbill; 18 cents Tenbadan, and 24 cents Megapod.

A highly interesting state of affairs, the *Shanghai Mercury* says, has arisen on account of the abandonment at the last moment of the visit of the American Pacific Squadron to Nanking. It had been arranged that the ships of the squadron were to arrive at Nanking about the 2nd or the 3rd inst., and it was generally understood that the sailors would have had ample opportunities of celebrating the "Fourth" on shore. This appealed to certain people with an eye to business in Shanghai, and quite a number proceeded to the Yangtze port mostly with the object of catering to the need of the tars, and a few it is said for the purpose of engaging in gambling. Unfortunately for their hopes of bagging some of the sailors' wages, a transport carrying new crews and a collier ready to coal the vessels were at Shanghai, and to allow of the transference of the men and coaling operations it was resolved not to proceed to Nanking. It is reported that those who had made Nanking their rendezvous were forced to hire premises at enhanced rates, and some it is believed are still waiting there in the vain hope of recouping themselves. In this instance business keenness seems to have over-reached itself, and if the report be correct that persons with an eye to carrying on gambling were among the crowd the bitter appears to have been bit.

AMERICAN POLICY IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, July 10th.)

The news from New York during the past few weeks abundantly confirms the view that the Far Eastern policy of the Taft Administration will mark a departure from the policy of *laissez faire* on which, until quite recently, American public opinion has insisted. We are told by the *Times* Correspondent that, as a Colonial administrator with experience of affairs in the Far East, PRESIDENT TAFT realises that in the Orient diplomacy and finance are closely related, and that a diplomatist whose nationals are engaged in great commercial ventures commands more respect than the representative of a Government whose people have only a minor share of the trade of the country to which he is accredited. It will not have been forgotten that in his inaugural message to Congress Mr. TAFT expressed similar sentiments with regard to the size of naval fleets—the biggest commands most respect; therefore the United States must increase her naval strength. But returning to the question of America's standing in China, those who are familiar with the history of the scramble of the Powers for politico-economic advantage in the last few years, will not need to be told that had the view of the position which Mr. TAFT is now presenting obtained at Washington half a dozen years ago, America might have been enjoying now an advantage, politically and commercially in China unexcelled by any other Power. But America neglected her opportunities.

Nearly ten years ago American financiers obtained the concession for the great trunk line of railway from Canton to Hankow, but, for reasons best known to themselves, they sold out, or were preparing to sell out, their interests to a Belgian syndicate, with probably a Russian backing. The result of this divorce of American economic and political interests was the redemption of the concession by the Chinese authorities, and a total loss to America of the great and potent advantages she had acquired. Generally speaking American financiers would appear to have shown little confidence in China as a field for the remunerative employment of capital, and to this we think must be attributed the fact that America's share in the economic development of China with its consequent political prestige has been "a minor one." A State Department communiqué to the American Press last month confesses that in 1905 the British Ambassador informed the American Government that British capitalists were desirous of opening negotiations with reference to the assurances given by China the previous year that American and British capitalists would be given a prior right to supply the loan and construct the Hankow railway. The American Government replied that "no American capitalists were ready at that time to co-operate," and, though nearly four years have since elapsed, nothing was heard of the formation of a syndicate in America until the British, French and German syndicates had completed their protracted arrangements for providing a loan to construct a line of railway from Hankow to Szechuan. Then came the announcement through official channels of the existence of an American financial group who claimed a share of the loan. America's protest to China against the ratification of the agreement and her representations at London, Paris and Berlin, claiming the right to participate in the loan, are too recent to require detailed reference. America had awakened suddenly to the fact that her failure to take advantage of her opportuni-

ties in China meant a loss of prestige, and no citizen of the United States saw that more clearly than the elected Chief of the Executive. It will be remembered how near this loan was to being entirely monopolised by Germany, and but for the timely protest of Great Britain and France the protracted negotiations which ensued, and PRESIDENT TAFT's clear perception of the need for a more aggressive policy in China, we may not have heard to this day of the formation of a powerful group of American financiers prepared to furnish money for investment in China. What glory may come out of it all for the United States will be primarily to the credit of the new PRESIDENT. Once the start has been made we may expect to see further developments. Messrs. J. P. MORGAN & Co., Messrs. KUHN, LOEB & Co., the First National Bank, the National City Bank and other financial institutions are in the Syndicate, and the American papers tell us that the field the syndicate will cover will include the bringing out of "Provincial State Loans, financing projected railways, and probably the establishment of banks."

To aid the development of these economic interests PRESIDENT TAFT has been searching,—and is searching still apparently—for "a business man of the highest qualifications" to represent the United States at Peking. We are told that the President does not regard a knowledge of diplomacy as essential, but "he wants a man of large business experience who can see the trend of events, take advantage of every opportunity that offers, and point out to Americans openings for the extension of their trade and commerce." As bearing upon this question, and in curious contrast to the views of PRESIDENT TAFT we may note that in a recently published and extremely interesting work entitled "The English in China," by Mr. BROMLEY EAMES, the author advocates a divorce of the functions of Diplomat and Superintendent of Foreign Trade. Mr. EAMES suggests that an official separate from the Minister should be appointed to act as Superintendent of Trade. His recommendation is that the Trade Superintendent should exercise no diplomatic function: his duty should be to visit in turn the various Open Ports and study the needs of the residents, and to inform himself as to all questions of a commercial nature, so that he may be able to advise the Home Government as to what new developments or modifications are necessary in our foreign policy for the advancement of our commercial interests in China. It seems to us that this need has been met by the British Government in the appointment of a Commercial Attaché. Mr. EAMES is apparently not satisfied with this substitute for a Superintendent of Trade, but his book does not indicate what functions the Trade Superintendent would perform which do not now come within the province of the Commercial Attaché. If the Minister is to remain the sole channel of diplomatic intercourse, as Mr. EAMES recognises must be the case, there does not seem much to be gained by appointing a Superintendent of Trade separate from the Minister; for diplomatic intercourse at Peking is so largely concerned with commercial and financial subjects that the Minister must needs keep himself thoroughly informed on these questions, and so long as he is assisted by a competent investigator it does not seem to matter a row of pins whether he be called Superintendent of Trade or Commercial Attaché. It must always be necessary to the success of his diplomacy that the Minister at Peking representing a Power whose commercial interests, present or potential, are great in the land

should be a man, if not of sound business training, at least of strong business proclivities. Incidentally, it may be added that on this score the British public have no reason to be dissatisfied with the services rendered by Sir JOHN JORDAN, though His Excellency's training in the Consular service may not be that which President TAFT judges to constitute the best qualifications for a Minister at the Chinese capital. The PRESIDENT would seem to be experiencing no little difficulty in finding his ideal man for the post, but his offer of the post to Mr. HAYS HAMMOND, the well-known American mining expert, shows the type of business man the PRESIDENT is seeking. The announcement of the success of his quest is eagerly awaited, for the interest which attaches to the impending American commercial and political developments in China naturally centres in the appointment of the Minister whose special duty it will be to promote them.

WEATHER FORECASTS.

(Daily Press, 12th July.)

That the main factor in the determination of terrestrial climate from year to year is the condition of the atmospheric circulation, and that this circulation in some way, as yet unexplained, is dependent on extraterrestrial causes, are two deductions from our knowledge of climatal variations with which few meteorologists will be found to quarrel. That in their daily forecast the meteorologists omit all reference to these fundamental rules is also a fact not always easy of explanation. The main reason is probably that as yet meteorologists have been content to study their science from too restricted a standpoint; and have sought to bring it into harmony with too narrow a set of local conditions. Meteorologists are not for the most part mathematicians, and no mathematician of sufficient grasp of the subject has as yet seen his way to elevating the study of weather forecasting into a philosophy. This, however, is what there are a few indications will one day be done for meteorology at large, and the scientific meteorologist may one day be found able to predict for each year in advance the general characteristics, leaving it for the local meteorologist to fill in the local conditions of his own particular province.

We have learned much of meteorology of recent years, and the foundation for a mathematical treatment is growing more secure year by year, but as yet the data are insufficient; or the capable mathematician able and willing to give his mind to the solution of the problem has not as yet appeared. Still there are a few facts, even with our present knowledge, capable of being correlated. Indian meteorology has introduced one, at least, comprehensive term in the modern use of the expression "failure of the monsoon" applied to conditions when from some as yet unexplained cause, the annual rains have failed to fall in some considerable area of the Peninsula, and the consequence is that hundreds of thousands, or in some cases millions, of the unfortunate tillers of the ground, instead of adding to the resources of the land have to be supported out of Government funds. Now certain astronomical students, accustomed to the use of the term periodicity, and disposed to see a periodic law in all celestial phenomena, have noticed, or thought they noticed, a tendency to a like phenomenon in climatal variations. Generally a vague period of about eleven years has been surmised, and this has been correlated with a like term during which disturbances in the upper layers of the sun's atmosphere, generally known as sun-spots, have been noticed to

attain a maximum. Other astronomers have found an approach to a real period at about thirty-four years, during which similar seasons repeat themselves, but though the meteorologists would be quite willing to accept some such general law, they have been for the most part prevented from doing so by certain wants of coincidence between the theory and their own observations, or apparent observations.

In this case it is probably the so-called observation that is at fault. There are, of course, many methods of observation, all founded equally on facts, and as such unquestionable; yet when brought to the test of experience and compared with general laws are found to be of no utility in evoking a condition of order. One of the principal causes of this failure is the excessive use of averaging, and the omission of extremes—a practice that leads to a mistaken view of the entire subject. We might, for example, in discussing the motion of the earth around the sun omit the two maximum points of the perihelion and the aphelion, and proceed to make our calculations as if the only factor to be considered were the mean distance. An instance of this occurred to the writer, in calculating from ancient Chinese records the possibility of discovering some periodic law. Lumping all the observations together, the only result was a vague uniformity; dividing the observations into sections of north and south, a very marked periodicity was the result, but the observations were as a rule too vague to lend themselves to any precision. Still there did seem to be a great weather cycle of some 298 years, and this seems in some curious arithmetical relation with the shorter terms of approximately eleven and thirty-four years respectively.

In this connection the present year seems not unlikely as an exceptional climatic year in China, at least. To add to our knowledge, China must, however, be taken regionally, not as a whole; and meteorologically the valley of the Yangtze seems to be the main determinant of the year. As a rule in these regions during the latter part of April, and the greater part of May, rain falls sporadically over the entire area, sufficient to fill the beds of the rivers and the irrigating channels. This year for practically six weeks not a drop of rain fell, and the streams and creeks were almost dried up, and it was with difficulty that sufficient water was found to irrigate the spring crops. Fortunately about the 24th June rain commenced to fall in some abundance. The ordinary course of the monsoon is that in April, varying a week or two, the Spring rains arrive, after which a generally well marked period of dry weather supervenes, and from the fifteenth to the twenty-first of June, according to the strength of the approaching monsoon, the regular Summer monsoon winds set in accompanied by more or less rain. In ordinary years, from the 20th to the 24th June, these rains, which always accompany the northern fringe of the monsoon, proceed to move north, and by the first week in July have arrived in Manchuria, often producing floods in the valley of the Liao and its tributaries. When the monsoon proves of insufficient initial force to move on northwards, the rains linger in the basin of the Yangtze between 28° and 34° north latitude; in which case as a rule absolute drought prevails in North China, where the crops almost invariably prove failures—in some years the ground becoming as parched as a desert, and all vegetable life is extinguished. The worst part of the result as far as China is concerned, is that while the North is reduced to desert conditions, Mid-China, especially in

the basin of the Yangtze, becomes flooded from the rise of the rivers, and the entire basin becomes one huge lake, the crops being drowned out, and the cattle in large measure killed off.

Now such appears to be the programme provided for the coming summer, and from every side in Mid-China come in complaints of the drowning out of the young crops, and the more overt destruction wrought directly by the rising floods. In apparent strange contrast with this are the conditions in North China, where unavailing prayers are being offered by the command of the REGENT for rain, which has almost totally ceased north of the thirty-fifth parallel. From what we at present know of natural climatal laws in China, these two contrary conditions existing alongside one another must both be referred to the one cause, the "failure" of the monsoon. But in its turn the failure of the monsoon is incapable of explanation from any mere local or territorial cause. Mathematically it can only be brought about by some diminution in the momentary radiation of heat, and the consequent lower temperature of those districts whose annual heating by solar radiation is known to induce the inflow of the periodic winds. Astronomers have often suggested, that the sun is really a variable star; but as yet no tangible reason for his variability has been discovered, though it has been sought for many years.

More than once these cases of diminished solar radiation in Mid-China have been associated with excessive outbursts of heat elsewhere, and frequently the scene turns out to be America. While, in fact, the valley of the Yangtze is this year so much cooler than the average that there is scarcely heat enough to bring to maturity the rice crop, did such exist, from New York we have news of hundreds dying from excessive heat, and this would seem to contradict the evidence we have spoken of as to the conditions having been brought about by a defect in the solar radiation. Examined more closely we may see that both are logical consequences of the same set of phenomena. At the beginning of our article we spoke of the atmospheric circulation being the main cause of climate. As a fact the climate of the various regions on the earth's surface is profoundly modified and mediated by the action of the prevalent winds. Were it not for the circulation of the atmosphere while the regions about the equator would be uninhabitable from excessive heat, life in the parts of the temperate zone nearer the poles would be impossible from the practical absence of any heat whatever. Neither condition prevails owing to the constant flow of the winds. But this circulation is brought about directly by solar radiation, and as we have seen is diminished when from any cause the radiation is lowered. While, then, the northern districts of the earth within the monsoon influence ordinarily during summer enjoy a higher and moister climate than they would otherwise meet with, in case of failure their average temperature is lower. North of the influence of the monsoon, in a comparatively narrow strip about north latitude 40° the summer heat, owing to the longer day, has a tendency to rise to extremes. In ordinary seasons this is tempered by the cool anti-cyclonic winds prevailing north of this latitude. But a failure in solar radiation has its effects likewise in diminishing the strength of these anti-cyclonic winds, as well as of the equinoctial wind, with the consequence that their cooling influence is not brought to bear on this strip of the earth's surface. There is then nothing more

contrary to reason in men's dying by scores from heat in New York, while in the valley of the Yangtze they are complaining of cold, than in finding that similar opposite conditions prevail in northern China within practically a few miles of one another. The moral of the tale is: That as yet we have only just arrived on the threshold of meteorology as a science; but that by no means proves that with a further extension of our knowledge we may not be able from year to year to make annual forecasts of the weather to be expected in any region, and may be enabled thus to make in ample time our financial arrangements as to secure the minimum loss in each case.

THE LATE LORD RIPON AND HONGKONG POLITICS.

(Daily Press, July 13th.)

Men of all shades of politics in Great Britain will regret the passing away of the MARQUIS OF RIPON, and that regret will be shared to a large extent in the Colonies, for the late statesman's fifty-six years of public service included a term as Secretary of State for the Colonies. Lord Ripon, who has been described by the present Prime Minister as "the last of the Old Guard" of Liberalism, only retired from public life about eight months ago. Born at No. 10, Downing Street, it may be said of him that he was consecrated from his birth to public affairs, and when he bade farewell to his political friends last November at a luncheon at the Eighty Club, he pathetically remarked that it had been his consistent ambition to die in Downing Street. But at the age of eighty-one, he had to relinquish that hope, being as he then said, "too feeble to turn the present occupant out." When he first entered Parliament he was looked upon as "a very dangerous young man" and he retained something of that reputation down to quite a late stage in his career. It is not, however, our purpose to attempt anything like a sketch of the deceased statesman's life, but there are one or two chapters in his lordship's life bearing upon the politics of the East which it is not uninteresting to recall. For four years his lordship was Viceroy of India. He had been the Grand Master of the Freemasons of England, a post which he resigned in 1874, and the surprise of the Grand Lodge was heightened to dismay by the circumstance that he did so without assigning any reason for the step. It soon transpired, however, that his lordship had joined the Roman Catholic Church, which, as is well known, has condemned Freemasonry and all other oath-bound societies. His reception into the Roman Catholic Church gave rise to much comment in the public journals both in the United Kingdom and on the Continent. Six years later when Mr. GLADSTONE nominated the MARQUIS OF RIPON as Viceroy of India there was a great outcry in England against the appointment of a Roman Catholic to that important position, a large meeting being held in Exeter Hall to protest against it. LORD RIPON, however, was duly installed, and remained in India about three years. His lordship excited much diversity of opinion by his policy, which was directed towards extending the rights of natives of India, and, in certain directions, towards limiting the privileges of Europeans, and it has been said of him that there never was a Viceroy so unpopular among Anglo-Indians or so popular among natives.

But it is LORD RIPON's influence on the Government of Hongkong that we especially desire to recall. If it was not during his régime as Secretary of State

for the Colonies that the introduction of the Unofficial element into the Executive Council was allowed, he was the first Secretary to countenance the idea, and his lordship's frank statement in an official dispatch that he should like to see a Municipal Council established in Hongkong, has perhaps, served more than anything else to keep that aspiration alive in the community during the last quarter of a century. It was during LORD RIPON's term of office, and during the Governorship of Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON, that an influentially signed petition was sent Home claiming for the inhabitants an effective voice in the management of the Colony's affairs. The petition asked for Unofficial seats in the Executive Council, the free election of Representatives of British nationality in the Legislative Council; a Majority in the Council of such elected Representatives; perfect freedom of debate for Official Members, with power to vote according to their conscientious convictions, without being called to account or endangered in their positions by their votes; complete control in the Council over local expenditure; the management of local affairs, and a consultative voice in questions of an Imperial character. Being of opinion that the place and its circumstances were wholly unsuited for self-government and the elective system, LORD RIPON was opposed to adding to the number of Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council without at the same time increasing also the number of Official Members, "for in a Crown Colony there must be a very distinct preponderance on the Official side." It was in this dispatch that LORD RIPON laid down that the paid servants of the Government cannot be left free to oppose the Government. "It is a fact not peculiar to the Crown Colony system; it is the essence of administration that the paid supporters or components of a government should either vote for, and when necessary speak for, the settled policy of the Government, or else resign their place." His lordship, however, said he could well realise that the addition of a gentleman of high standing and large local experience would be a gain to the Executive Council, and he was prepared to sanction the proposal if the Governor still recommended it after further considering points he proceeded to specify. But the matter was left to be finally settled by the Rt. Hon. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN who became Secretary of State for the Colonies on the failure of the Liberal Party to secure a new lease of power. Mr. CHAMBERLAIN settled the question of additions to the Legislative Council by suggesting that the Officer Commanding the Troops should be a member of the Council, having regard to the fact that, in the absence of the Governor, the General would administer the Government; and in that event one unofficial member could be added. Who the latter should be, and what special interest, if any, he should represent Mr. CHAMBERLAIN left it to the Governor to determine, but he observed that "the Chinese community is the element which is least represented, while it is also far the most numerous," and he would "regard as valuable any step which tended to attach them more closely to the British connection and to increase their practical interest in public affairs." That suggestion was in due course adopted. As regards the introduction of an unofficial element into the Executive Council, Mr. CHAMBERLAIN taking into consideration the fact that there was no Municipal Council in Hongkong, and recognising that the Colonial Government is discharging Municipal duties, proposed that the Executive

Council should in future include two Unofficial members to be selected at the discretion of the Governor. This suggestion also was in due course given effect. Lord Ripon's hope to see a Municipal Council established in Hongkong has not been fulfilled, and since the Government dealt with the Report of the Sanitary Commission it may be said that the possibility suggested by Lord Ripon of the Sanitary Board being developed into a satisfactory Municipal Council is more remote than ever it was.

THE BRITISH BUDGET.

(Daily Press, 14th July.)

Nothing could be more indicative of the change which has of late years taken place in Parliamentary representation at home than the incidents which occurred in connection with the passage of Mr. LLOYD GEORGE's Budget. By force of party majority and the use of the closure, taxes avowedly of a class description and directly aimed against capital in almost every form were passed by a large majority. No sooner, however, was this announced than a protest signed by several of the most influential bankers appeared in the papers, to be followed later by a similar protest from a large number of other financial magnates of almost equal authority. The ground upon which they made this declaration was their conviction that the drastic measures of taxation which the Budget introduced would be prejudicial to capital and in fact would have the effect of sending it out of the United Kingdom for investment. The gravity of this will be at once felt by all who are connected with trade, commerce, or finance; and the names of those who have come forward to protest are a sufficient guarantee that the apprehension has a solid foundation.

What is at once made clear on the surface is the serious fact that in a nation absolutely dependent upon commerce, the most important commercial interests can be completely ignored by Imperial Parliament. In other words, it is manifest that the nation as a whole is no longer represented by Parliament in what has been traditionally considered as its chief ground for representation, namely, the levy and expenditure of the public moneys. Taxation has always been held to give the right to a proper hearing and to due representation. But in the present instance albeit under all the forms of legality this fundamental principle has been practically waived aside. As long as a good round sum could be got out of the monied classes by force of the votes of those representing the unmonied classes, it mattered not that the former should be injured or the nation at large crippled at the very source of its prosperity. The ultimate result of such a financial policy was of no consideration to the extreme Liberal and Socialistic members who want to make up the majority by whom the Budget was passed. Nor were such considerations of much more weight with the Government itself who were willing at any price to conciliate all who would support them by their votes.

What effectively has been done is to introduce a budget which taxes people to the utmost limits simply and avowedly because they are rich—a policy which is the very reverse of all sound finance. It is no doubt right that people should contribute to expenses of the State in accordance with their means, but this should be in such a way that the tax should come fairly out of their incomes and not be a heavy mulct upon their capital which may be employed for

the benefit not only of themselves but of the nation at large. The notion that labour can do without capital is as absurd as to suppose that capital can be made productive without the employment of labour; and burdens cannot be placed upon the one without very soon affecting the other. If the effect of Taxing Capital in the LLOYD GEORGE style is to send it out of the country, can that mean any thing else than diminished employment of the working classes in the country, and proportionate diminution of its productive capabilities? Such finance may, possibly, be of service in keeping up a majority in the House by yielding to the views of those who have nothing to lose by the taxation they assist in passing; but things are certainly getting to a critical pass when party tactics are carried to the length of imposing taxation which is manifestly against the commercial and financial interests of the country for merely party objects. What seems most strangely to be overlooked is that there are no persons who, in the long run will suffer more from the adoption of such a policy than the working classes themselves for the sake of whose votes it has been adopted.

THE SITUATION IN PERSIA.

(Daily Press, 15th July.)

The news so far received respecting the events at the capital of Persia are too meagre to enable us to speculate with much profit on the chances of success for the Nationalist movement; but the fact that the Nationalist troops have been able to enter Tehran and remain there shows that the tide has arrived when the barbarous autocracy of the SHAH must give place to a less cruel, less corrupt and more competent administration. The contest would be vastly simplified for foreign spectators if it were possible to regard the popular party as standing for a clear Constitution. But we have been told by the Press Correspondents in Persia that unfortunately there is too much evidence that the Nationalist leaders are "not all HAMPERNS of integrity," and that their conception of a Constitutional Government gives the phrase not much more than the value of a metaphor. Still, the circumstances under which the Nationalist movement came into existence in 1905, as a protest against the increasing popular misery and discontent with a corrupt and incompetent administration and an extravagant Court would seem to indicate that the general mass enrolled under the Nationalist banner are inspired by better and higher ideals, and, given the opportunity, they may, like the Young Turks, prove to be not so black as they are painted. Within a twelvemonth they had wrung from the SHAH the promise of a Constitution; and a National Council or Consultative Assembly of 162 representatives of all classes excepting the peasant and working classes, was called into existence. But much internal disorder followed, for which the Parliament did not appear entirely free from blame. The SHAH in 1907 signed a new Constitution, limiting the sovereign prerogatives and ecclesiastical authority and granting liberty of conscience, of the person, of education, of the press, of association and of speech. But he broke his pledges and violently dissolved the Parliament. The result has been serious political unrest and some bloodshed. The power of the SHAH rests upon the Army and on money. If he loses the support of either, he evidently cannot for long defy the growing body of Nationalists. Further news from Persia will be awaited with eager interest.

We have been made acquainted by REUTER with the fact that in anticipation of the march of Nationalist troops on Teheran, Russian troops had been moved from Baku to a point within reach of the Persian Capital. As, however, the telegrams tell us that neither the lives nor property of foreigners are in danger, there is no excuse at present for the active intervention of the Russian General. While England is deeply interested in the situation, there is—thanks to the self-denying clauses of the Anglo-Russian Convention negotiated a couple of years ago—no longer any cause for apprehending that the political turmoil in Persia will involve two great European Powers in a war. It can readily be imagined that the chaos which has prevailed in Persia, and especially in Northern Persia, during the past eighteen months would have offered strong temptation to Russia to attempt to gain complete control over those provinces. But the Convention has been a powerful restraining influence. Though it may be, as critics contended, at the time, that the sacrifices made by Great Britain in negotiating this agreement were excessive, and though it may be that the agreement in its many details unsatisfactory, it has in the short period of eighteen months been put to a severe test with eminently satisfactory results. Had the outcome of the political chaos in Persia been the military occupation of the northern and southern divisions of the country by Russia and Great Britain, respectively, results of terrible importance could have been anticipated. Certainly there is good reason to feel profoundly thankful for the existence of the Anglo-Russian Convention which enables the British public and the whole civilised world to watch the progress of the drama in Persia without getting into a ferment of anxiety.

1. SLAVERY IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, 16th July)

If the news published in a northern contemporary that the VICEROY of Canton has issued a proclamation ordering all householders to emancipate their slaves be not correct, we may be pardoned for expressing the hope that the intention nevertheless exists. That slavery, as such, obtains in China is perhaps not well known, but its existence cannot be doubted. The proclamation itself, or the report that the proclamation has been issued, is proof that such a condition prevails, though it has to be admitted that the slavery does not take that horrible shape found in Africa or formerly in America, but rather corresponds to the villeinage in Europe of the dark and middle ages. In one respect only is the serfdom in China as bad as the slavery of Africa, and that is in the unholy traffic which is found all over the empire of buying little girls in order to have them trained for immoral lives. With this exception, which certainly shows no diminution as the years pass, slavery as such has been dwindling in China, until now it is only found in the interior—and to a limited extent—with an exceptional instance now and then in large cities.

In olden times we know that slavery was one of the outcomes of war. Prisoners were not always slain: frequently their lives were spared so that the captors might utilise them as servants and labourers or include them in the rank of their fighting men. Ancient history also acquaints us with men and women who sold themselves or were sold to masters in liquidation of debts contracted, but there seems to be little doubt that the real origin of slavery

is traceable to the constant strife which primitive communities waged with each other. The student of history remembers the helot of Greece and the bondman of Rome, and it will also be remembered that the nations which succeeded these had their particular forms of slavery or serfdom. The Saxons when they settled in England brought with them that system of villeinage which obtained there till the middle ages. The slaves then were generally attached to the soil. They held land from their masters, to whom they looked for protection in time of war. They enjoyed a certain amount of liberty, and their condition perhaps is better described as that of bondsmen rather than slaves. Whether the form of serfdom which obtains in China is the descendant of that slavery associated with the utilisation of prisoners of war is not quite clear, but it is safe to assert that the system of bondage found to-day in that great empire is parallel with the villeinage of the dark and middle ages in Europe. The bondsmen are invariably attached to the soil. They may be bought or they may be born in bondage, but in the event of their owner not being able to keep them they may find work elsewhere and ultimately buy their freedom. This, it will be noticed, is one feature in common with the system which once prevailed in England. Happily, it is now not so common in China for men at any rate to lose their liberty. Boys are no longer bought to be slaves. They are bought to be sons, to become members of a sonless family, and with a view to their doing their duty to their benefactors when the latter have ceased to live. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said with regard to girls. Their easy purchase helps to perpetuate and make most acute the social evil in China. It is a subject that should make China's wellwishers blush for her good name. That girls of tender years should be purchased with the malevolent design of one day consigning them to the horrible existence which so many economically helpless women drag out in houses of ill-fame is an evil, an outrage, that must be apparent to all fair-minded people in and out of China, and its removal ought to appeal to all humanitarians. Doubtless, if the VICEROY's action be correctly reported, HIS EXCELLENCY's proclamation aims at this social blot. Were it erased through his instrumentality, countless numbers of girls and women would have cause to rise and call his name blessed, and China would certainly benefit by the purification. We have not seen any confirmation of the reported proclamation, but we hope it is true. We hope also that its operation will not be limited to the Canton viceroyalty, but that it will spread throughout the empire.

Taking the report, however, as it stands, it would appear as if the proclamation referred more particularly to the bondmen to whom we have already alluded. The report sets out "The Viceroy of Canton has issued a proclamation ordering all householders to emancipate their slaves and report to the local authorities within one year. He further directs any slave who is kept in bondage after that time to apply to the officials for release." Even in this limited sense the news must afford gratification. It bears testimony to the spread of enlightened ideas, and shows that modern thought is permeating the Empire. In other words, it is another sign of the times. It is another step in the march of progress. In this matter we have to recognise that China is not so far behind the western world as in others. It is not a century since slavery was abolished in British dominions; in Europe itself, notably in Russia, serfdom continued till about the

middle of last century, and the great struggle which convulsed America before the negro slaves were freed is fresh in the memory of many still alive. But we remember that before the slaves could be freed certain financial considerations had to be met. Is due regard paid to these by the reported proclamation? It might be possible to declare that from a certain time the trafficking in human flesh and blood shall cease, that the purchase of any bondsmen or bondswomen shall be illegal, but that would not necessarily liberate those who are in bondage at present. To say that householders shall emancipate their slaves without some *quid pro quo* is practically to declare the impossible—impossible because of its injustice. It would be manifestly unfair to those who took advantage of the law of the land to acquire bondsmen or bondswomen, to deprive them of that property without compensation. It may be that such a principle will not be recognised, but we rather think that it will, and it is this question of compensation which will delay the reform. The state of China's finances is too well known to call for statement, but it is such as to render doubtful any sum being voted for such a purpose, desirable though it may be.

CHINA'S SOVEREIGN RIGHTS.

(Daily Press, July 17th.)

One of the most curious instances of the awakening sensitiveness of the obstructionists in China as to what they parade as "Lost Sovereign Rights," is afforded by the tale of a wireless electric apparatus recently installed at the Palace Hotel in Shanghai. That the Chinese have here the letter of international law on their side only adds to the absurdity of the position in which they present themselves before the eyes of the world. The Palace Hotel at Shanghai is a new building, not yet entirely completed, and is an edifice of considerable pretensions, attaining the greatest height permissible under local regulations, and having at that height a roof garden. Practically it overlooks the entire of the Foreign Settlements, and has a very extensive outlook over the approaches from the sea. Under the circumstances when the exterior of the building was approaching completion, and its commanding aspect became evident, it struck the management that one of the towers could with advantage to the port and shipping be utilised for the instalment of a wireless telegraphic station. When spoken of to him the Senior Naval Officer expressed his approval and offered to give what assistance lay in his power, and the principal Consular officials at once saw the benefit of the suggestion. It never seems to have occurred to any of these that the Chinese Government would fail to see the advantage in its own interest of the installation, while all were prepared if required that the system should be worked under licence. Instead of pointing out that, according to recent international arrangements the European Powers having determined amongst themselves that, in view of future developments, they had determined to place wireless telegraphy under the auspices of the governments of the various States, who had decided, each within its own sphere, to make it a State monopoly, the Chinese Government, in view of its possible importance within the near future, was desirous of coming to some common understanding with the other Powers, the first that was heard of the affair by the Foreign Legations at Peking was a peremptory demand from the Waiwupu that

they should at once order the removal of the offending installation.

It was quite true, that in Europe the Powers had decided to hold the installation of wireless telegraphy entirely in their own hands; but this had been done in a formal manner by common consent, and this new principle of international law, though proceeding on old and well understood general principles, was after all but a few months old, and though the Powers were quite willing to extend to China the general principle, the particular instance was an exceptional one, and in the meanwhile much was to be said in its favour. It had been erected within the Foreign Settlements at Shanghai; and although no one was going to plead that these were other than Chinese soil and as such were amenable to China's sovereign rights not expressly alienated, there were other things to be taken into consideration. The installation had already been found of considerable benefit to ships using the port. Many of the trans-Pacific liners were already fitted with apparatus, and both they and the British fleet, at least, had been able to communicate at long distances. China on her side had not made any proposal to erect on her own account, either at Shanghai or elsewhere, any installation of her own, so that the plea of interference could not under existing circumstances be raised. In view of the great importance of the trade of Shanghai, and the very large proportion carried in foreign ships, the Governments were certainly entitled to require that China should either instal a system of her own, or should grant a licence for the continuance of the present system till she were in a position to undertake the service herself. On the other hand seeing that there has been no attempt at evading any arrangements of China made beforehand, it is no hardship on China that when taking over the existing installation she should be asked to pay a fair remuneration for the expenses undergone.

It is indicative in this as in other cases where China has been putting forward her own claims under the plea that she is only seeking to recover her "lost sovereign rights" that her advisers have forgotten that in all these cases she has duties as well as rights. In no one case, as we have shown, has any right once exercised by China been called in question. Though repeatedly suggested by the Powers she had, as in the case of her post offices, never established an imperial service, but has left such service as existed to be carried out by private individuals, the innovation of the rights here and elsewhere has been entirely on her own side. Notoriously the first steps taken by Sir ROBERT HART towards the establishment of the Imperial Post Office were met at Peking with jealous dislike, and when Sir ROBERT HART proposed to divert some of the Customs revenue to the purpose of improving the new service, a refusal couched in none too polite terms was the reply. It was not, in fact, till making use of such funds as he had under his own control, he succeeded in making both ends meet that the slightest consideration was shown to his new bantling; and then the first symptom of appreciation of the service that he had countered on it was an intrigue headed by the new Chief of Ways and Communications—since dismissed for gross speculation—to get possession of the new department. The new attempt at nipping in the bud the recent departure in the way of the introduction of wireless telegraphy, is quite on a par with other recent proceedings of the reactionary party, whose main object in recovering these imaginary "lost" rights is to open up for themselves, as in the case of the Tele-

graph Administration appropriated by SHENG KUNGPAO, what they conceive to be fine fat billets, and by no means to advance the interests of the State. The cry is doubtless a plausible one and had it any foundation in actual fact, or were there any evidence of rights once enjoyed having by persuasion or compulsion been appropriated by foreign Powers, we should be the last to raise our voice against China's reasonable complaints.

As a fact, as we have shown, in nearly every instance, the assumption of services usually in Europe preoccupied by the State itself has proceeded from the entire absence with China of any organisation whatever that could be utilised for the purpose; and beyond and above this, the revulsion exhibited when one or other of the Powers concerned made suggestions that China herself should meet the requirements of commerce. Crucial instances of this deliberate action we have shown in postal facilities and coinage. China had, for want of any conception of any right being involved, compelled her own merchants to establish throughout the empire a service of private post-offices; she certainly had no ground for complaint that the foreigner for the very same reason found it necessary to do what her own subjects had done for countless generations. Even worse was the case of the coinage; owing to the incapacity and dishonesty of successive governments, the people had found it a matter of actual necessity to take into their own hands the regulation of the currency, and the government stamp on a piece of money, so far from being a guarantee of purity and value, came actually to be the stamp of adulteration and false weight. It was thus through her own misconduct, and not through any encroachment on the part of any foreign Power or Powers, that long before the advent of the foreigner the Government attestation of the value or purity of any circulating money had become so hateful in the land, that to avoid worse consequences, the Government had perforce to withdraw (except in the case of the humble cash, whose weight confined its use to the petty retail trade of the village), from any interference with the circulating medium of the country, which fell into the more trustworthy hands of the private banks. We are quite prepared to hail as one of the surest signs of promise China's determination to fulfil her long neglected duties; but this does not blind us to the fact that the loudest in the cry of "Lost Sovereign Rights" is the very section who by ill-faith and dishonesty brought China into its recent helpless condition and who for their own ends would willingly see restored the worst abuses of the reign of a KIA KING or a HEIN-FUNG.

RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

Typhoon talk has been on tap during the week-end. Excursions have had to be abandoned and outside pleasures have been considerably marred. It looks, however, as if we were to see nothing more than the signals this time.

History repeats itself. On Thursday the Legislative Council had under consideration the railway ordinance, and one member wanted to know what would happen in the event of a cow or other animal straying on the line. George Stephenson's famous answer, "It would be bad for the coo," might very well have been quoted.

Cattle straying on the railway was mentioned at the debate on the railway bill on Thursday, and the explanation was forthcoming that where there was no fence the owners of cattle could not be prosecuted for allowing their cattle

to stray on the railway. "No fence, no fine," was the alliterative reply of the Attorney-General. He might have expressed it "No fence, no offence."

It looks as if business were meant when our Legislature has been asked to pass a railway bill providing for the administration of our little venture on the Kowloon side. I am told that there is a possibility that in the conduct of the railway we might have to face the old problem which has worried the police and the magistrates for years, namely, When is a man drunk? The new ordinance contains certain provisions for dealing with intoxicated persons, and I am informed that the query of one official member as to whether it was intended to provide medical men for each station in order to have them handy to decide whether a passenger was drunk or not was not taken seriously. We remember it was asserted that a man was not drunk if he could walk straight, but this test was felt to be too severe and it was declared that a man need not be considered intoxicated if he had the savvy to lie in the gutter and hold on by the kerb. But possibly we may not have so much trouble in this direction as is anticipated. After all we have to remember that it is the drunk Occidental who gives most trouble. The obfuscated Celestial is extremely rare.

The little discussion that took place at the Legislative Council on Thursday aiming at the preservation of the public right to bathe at Stonecutters has recalled to the recollection of old residents an amusing incident which occurred nearly thirty years ago when landing was strictly forbidden on Stonecutters' Island by the military authorities. One of the first offenders was Mr. A. J. Leach who at the time was Attorney General. The military policeman being no respecter of persons, or, like an asylum warder, not given to believing all that is told him, promptly conveyed the protesting A. G. to the Yaumati Police Station, where, of course, he was recognised at once and immediately released from custody. One of these days, when the verbal assurances given at the Council meeting are forgotten, an Attorney-General may get lugged out of the water at Stonecutters and be taken over to the Yaumati Police Station in a bathing suit. The Inspector in charge might then have more difficulty in recognising the prisoner before him. The reflection that occurs to me in this connection is that the public right to bathe within one hundred yards of the foreshore at Stonecutters ought to have been expressly stated in the Bill. Succeeding Generals will know nothing of the discussion in the Council Chamber; they will only have the Ordinance before them.

And so the statue of Queen Alexandra is to be brought out of the godown at last. Possibly there were good reasons for the delay, but even we in the East who are not accustomed to undue haste might be pardoned for marvelling at the time it has taken to have this permanent memorial of the coronation of King Edward put up in Royal Square. It was three years after the coronation before the order was given for the statue to be sculptured, it took three years for the sculptor to complete his task, and it looks as if it will take another year before the statue is erected. As I say, I have no doubt there are satisfactory explanations for the delays: I am only pointing out the delays.

Some of our American friends take themselves very seriously. Two of them, a lady and gentleman, were making inquiries last week-end as to the Fourth of July celebrations in Hongkong, and the lady seemed quite perturbed because only one hotel celebrated the occasion. Her companion sought to comfort her with the remark, "Well, I guess it isn't a European celebration anyway." Which of course was quite right. To ask us to celebrate the Fourth July is twisting the lion's tail with a vengeance.

I notice that the Manila *Cable News-American* doesn't quite believe the *Daily Press* when the latter asserted that the attempts to "knock Manila" on the part of the China coast newspapers existed only in the fancy of certain imaginative writers down in the Philippines. I have no wish to join in the controversy, but

my own opinion is that the China coast journals instead of villifying Manila simply ignore it. And it is this fact that stings. That a pushful people like the Americans should be ten years in the Philippines doing great things and not have the Orient ringing with their praises seems inexplicable to them. But however unpalatable it may be to our American friends it is none the less true. At the time of the Carnival when the Hongkong journalists were hospitably received in Manila, certain of the fair city's newspapers remarked that the China coast people would now "discover that the Philippines was on the map," and therein we note the American feeling of disappointment that they have not received the recognition they expected. Neither they nor their fair city of Manila nor the lovely Philippines have been "knocked." As a matter of fact they have been left severely alone.

RODERICK RANDOM.

HONGKONG.

Mr. R. O. Hutchison has been appointed a deputy registrar of marriages.

We are officially informed that Newchwang has declared Hongkong to be an infected port.

During the absence on leave of Mr. E. A. Irving, Mr. T. K. Dealy will act as Director of Education.

His Excellency the Governor has appointed Mr. C. A. Melbourne to act as Deputy Registrar and Appraiser of the Supreme Court.

Two men who were arrested in connection with the piracy of a fishing junk at Deep Bay two or three weeks ago were on the 12th inst. committed for trial.

A week's notice is given in our advertisement columns by the Hongkong Ice Company, Ltd., of their intention to raise the price of ice to one cent per pound.

At the Magistracy on July 9th Mr. F. A. Hazeland fined a Chinese arrival from America \$50 for having two daggers in his possession.

A merchant was at the Magistracy on July 13 fined \$25 for having exposed five cases of kerosene in the street instead of having stored them in his well.

The Commissioners appointed to consider the delimitation of Macao are now holding their conferences at the residence of Mr. J. J. Leiria, Consul-General for Portugal.

For stealing a small piece of sand paper valued about ten cents from Quarry Bay an employee from the Dock there was on the 15 inst. at the Magistracy sentenced to three weeks' imprisonment.

It is expected that His Excellency the Viceroy of Canton will be entertained by the local Chinese when he visits Hongkong on the occasion of his leaving to take up his new appointment in the north.

A native has been arrested in connection with the supposed murder of a Public Works coolie near Shauiwan. He was placed before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy on July 10th on the capital charge, and the hearing was adjourned.

An extract of meteorological observations made at the Hongkong Observatory during the month of June shows that the average maximum temperature was 86.3 and the minimum 78.6 degrees. The rainfall during the month was 7.385 inches, and the sun shone for 230.3 hours.

A return showing the number of cases of communicable diseases which have been notified as occurring in the Colony of Hongkong during the week ended the 10th July, shows four Chinese cases of plague (one imported from Canton), two of enteric fever (one imported) and a case of puerperal fever.

A statement of the Colony's assets on April 30th, published in the current *Gazette*, places the total liabilities at \$394,241.63 and the total assets at \$186,174.21, thus showing a debit balance of \$208,037.42. Reimbursements due by railway construction account total \$1,430,960.30, while the balance of assets (General account) is \$1,222,922.88.

The Penang Chinese who was recently extradited from Hongkong has been committed for trial on the charge of falsifying the books of the Penang branch of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, and thereby obtaining \$70,000.

A Chinese foreman on board the s.s. *Onsang* was brought before Mr. Hazeland at the Magistracy on July 13 on a charge of having attempted to commit suicide shortly after the steamer left Java by jumping overboard. He told his Worship that another member of the crew had assaulted him. The case was dismissed.

Gambling raids afloat are now being carried out by the police. On July 15th two gangs who had been arrested while gambling on board cargo boats were brought before Mr. Wood at the Magistracy by Inspector Kerr and fines of \$25 each were inflicted in most cases. At one raid \$45.35 had been captured and this sum was confiscated.

A coolie appeared before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Magistracy on July 9 on the charge of selling intoxicating liquor in the Hongkong Hotel boys' quarters at No. 7, Wellington Street. Defendant offered the excuse that he only sold the drink to foks. A fine of \$300 was imposed, the alternative being three months' hard labour.

Another instance of kidnapping children from their parents was related at the Magistracy on July 13, when four men and a woman were charged with kidnapping two boys from Canton. The prisoners brought the boys to Hongkong, where they sold them for \$40 and were on their way back but were arrested on board the steamer at the wharf. The case was remanded.

An unusual feature of a gambling raid carried out by P. S. Watt was that all those captured were women. It was known to the police that the house at 266, Queen's Road was being used for gambling purposes by women, but when the police forced their way in the keepers, two men, managed to escape. Mr. Hazeland ordered the women to be fined \$5 each.

The merits and habits of dogs were lengthily discussed before His Honour the Puisne Judge in the Summary Court on July 12, and incidentally, the powers of the policeman provoked considerable argument. Many sentences detailing what a policeman should not do were rounded off with "even if he is a policeman." Mr. Holborow, however, caused a smile to illumine the faces in Court when he remarked, "Even if he is a policeman he must be a human being," and his Honour backed the solicitor up so far as to say, "I hope so."

A Wellington Street goldsmith informs the police that a Chinaman dressed in European costume and without a queue called at his shop and ordered a gold cash value \$6.80, which he asked to be sent to the Chinese church in Wellington Street. It was accordingly sent by a foki, who on arrival at the church handed up the gold cash and was asked to wait outside. After remaining there for two hours he became tired and made inquiries which elicited that the man went out by the back door and disappeared.

Inspector Kerr prosecuted a Chinese for uttering counterfeit coin at the Magistracy on July 14 and secured two convictions against the man. His method was to go to a house in Ship Street, engage a room and tender a five dollar bill in payment of the dollar bargain money. Then he would find some pretext for quarrelling and asking his bill back. He then returned four dollars in spurious coin. The fraud was discovered after he left and two women went after him and arrested him, afterwards handing him over to the police.

The following were invited to dine at Government House on Thursday to meet His Excellency Kao Erh-chen and suite:—Mr. S. W. Tso, Mr. Chau Sui-ki, Mr. Kwok Yik-ting, Mr. Yung Him-pong, Mr. Ng Li-hing, Mr. Chiu U-tin, Mr. Li Yau-chun, Mr. Lau Yam-tsun, Mr. Leung Pui-chi, Mr. Ho Fook, Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Mr. Wei Yuk, Dr. Ho Kai, Mr. G. T. Lloyd, Mr. Law, Mr. Harris, Mr. Blanchflower, Mr. Clementi, Mr. P. N. H. Jones, Mr. Gresson, Mr. Murray Stewart, Mr. Brewin, Sir Henry Berkeley, Commodore Lyon, Mr. Hutchison, Mr. Wodehouse, and Mr. Fletcher.

The typhoon signals indicating a typhoon within three hundred miles of the Colony to the south-west have been up since Friday night. The force of the wind in Hongkong, however, has not been great, and the proximity of the typhoon has only so far had the beneficial effect of producing heavy showers of rain which, as the last monthly water returned clearly indicated, were greatly needed.

It is reported in a Peking contemporary that a Sikh soldier belonging to a party of Europeans headed by Robert S. Clark, an American millionaire, who were travelling in Kansu, has been killed by the natives with whose business, it is reported, the deceased had interfered. As most of the travellers are Englishmen, a telegraphic message regarding the matter has been sent to Sir John Jordan, the British Minister.

To stowaway on board ship and reach the desired destination and then be brought back to the starting place is a rather bitter experience. Such was the experience of three Chinese who stowed themselves away on board the *Gymeric*. They were discovered before the vessel reached America and were brought back to Hongkong. On July 14 Mr. Hazeland, before whom they were placed, ordered them to pay a fine of \$100 each or go to prison for three months.

It is surprising how hardy some Chinese are. One man, an assistant on the German steamer *Devawongsee* had the misfortune to be hit on the head with a hammer by another Chinese on board, but it did not crack his skull or end his life. It only entailed a temporary visit to the hospital. The blow may have been a light one, but it was none the less intentional, as one of the men held him while the other hit him over the head with the hammer. The assailant was fined \$10 at the Magistracy on July 14.

His Excellency the Governor has given his assent, in the name and on behalf of His Majesty the King, to the following Ordinances passed by the Legislative Council:—Ordinance No. 17 of 1909.—An Ordinance to amend The Stonecutters' Island Ordinance, 1889; Ordinance No. 18 of 1909.—An Ordinance to amend the Interpretation Amendment Ordinance, 1908; Ordinance No. 19 of 1909.—An Ordinance to amend The Stamp Ordinance 1901 as amended by The Stamp (Amendment) Ordinance, 1902.

A visitor to Hongkong, named Mr. Ling, residing at the Peak Hotel, on July 13 proceeded against a ricksha coolie for demanding more than his legal fare. Complainant stated to Mr. Hazeland before whom the case was heard that he engaged the defendant to take him from Battery Path to the lower terminus of the Peak Tramway, and when he asked defendant "how much" the latter replied "60 cents" (instead of 10 cents). Defendant declared that he asked complainant for his fare and then asked for *cumsha*. His Worship imposed a fine of \$10 or one month's imprisonment.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to direct that, pursuant to instructions from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Queen's College shall in future be administered under and through the Director of Education. The Governing Body of Queen's College will therefore cease to exist, and the Government notifications appointing the Hon. Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G., the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, C.M.G., the Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin, the Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett, Mr. E. A. Irving, Mr. A. Turner, and the Rev. T. W. Pearce to be Members of the Governing Body of Queen's College are hereby cancelled.

Returns of the average amount of bank notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong, during the month ended 30th June, 1909, as certified by the managers of the respective banks, are as under:—

Banks.	Average Amount.	Specie in Reserve
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China ...	3,739,520	2,800,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation ...	11,966,330	13,000,000
National Bank of China, Limited ...	48,077	Nil.
Total ...	\$15,753,927	15,800,000

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

8th July, 1909.

AN OVERDUE PROMISSORY NOTE.

Sometime ago, Tsang Cheuk Yu, son of a wealthy Hongkong merchant named Tsang Yeut Kai, who has an interest in the Kwong Man timber firm at Honam, gave a promissory note for a sum of \$19,000 to Messrs. Vogelgesang & Co., a German firm on the Shameen. When the promissory fell due Tsang Cheuk Yu failed to pay, whereupon Messrs. Vogelgesang & Co. presented the claim at the German Consulate and requested the Consul to communicate with the Chinese Authorities to enforce payment of the claim. The Pun Yu Magistrate was instructed by the Viceroy to summon Tsang Cheuk Yu to appear before him, but the defendant declined to put in an appearance and has been hiding himself in the city. Tsang Yeut Kai, fearing that the case might involve him into trouble, caused the son to be arrested on the 6th instant, and he is now at the Pun Yu Magistracy.

VICEREGAL MEETING.

It is reported that Viceroy Yuan Shu Hsun has cabled to Viceroy Chang making an appointment to meet him at Shanghai on the 10th day of the 6th moon (26th instant).

THE ELECTRIC LIGHT.

The Toatai of Industries has inserted an advertisement in the local papers inviting merchants to take up \$1,000,000 worth of shares of the new Electric Light concern. The advertisement states that the capital of the new concern is to be \$1,500,000, divided in 150,000 shares of \$10 each. The officials will subscribe \$500,000, and the balance will be allotted to the merchants. Messrs. Poon Pui Yu and Li Yung Fong will be the first merchant directors of the Company. The advertisement distinctly states that foreigners will be allowed to subscribe for these shares.

RESIGNATION REFUSED.

His Excellency Chang Chi Tung has cabled instructions to Taotai Wong Ping Yan, Director of the Canton-Hankow Railway here, to inform Sir Chan Tung Laing Sheng, Superintendent of the above railway company, that his resignation cannot be entertained by His Excellency Chan Chi Tung, especially at this critical moment when the accounts of the Company are being investigated. Should there be any difficulties arising therefrom His Excellency will endeavour to give all possible assistance that is within his power. The telegram states that similar cablegrams have been sent to Viceroy Chang, the Provincial Treasurer and Admiral Li.

THE NEW CHAPLAIN OF ST. ANDREW'S, KOWLOON.

The Rev. H. O. Spink, the new incumbent of St. Andrew's Church, Kowloon, has been senior curate of St. Cyprian's Church, Liverpool. The parish magazine for June contains the following reference to his impending departure:—

"The keenest regret is being felt throughout the parish at the thought of the approaching departure of the Rev. H. O. Spink for his new sphere of work as Incumbent of St. Andrews, Kowloon, in Bishop Lander's diocese. To say that he has gained the affection and respect of all who know him is to give but an inadequate idea of the warm feelings with which he is universally regarded. His untiring zeal, his unflinching courtesy, his unselfish devotion to duty, and above all the high spiritual influence which he has exercised, especially amongst the young, will most assuredly leave an abiding mark for good upon the parish. St. Cyprian's will be poorer for his loss, but we are thankful to feel that he is going to a wider sphere of work, and the prayers of all his friends here will follow him across the seas. May God bless him and keep him!"

The Rev. Mr. Spink is leaving England about the end of next month, and the congregation of St. Andrew's may hope to see him working in their midst about the end of September.

HONGKONG'S NEW STATUE.

When we speak of the Queen's Statue in Hongkong we naturally think of the imposing structure which perpetuates the glorious memory of Queen Victoria, but a new generation knows a new Queen, and it is interesting to know that the statue of Queen Alexandra, which it was decided several years ago should have a place in the Royal Square with that of her royal consort, will be erected at an early date. Already preparations are being made, and those who have passed the locality will have observed that a niche in the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank garden directly opposite the King's statue has been set apart for this purpose, the railing having been moved to enable this to be done.

It is so long since the decision was taken to provide such a statue that it might be well to refresh the memory of readers on the subject. On the occasion of the coronation of King Edward a committee was appointed in Hongkong to carry out fitting celebrations of the historic event. So liberally did the populace subscribe to the appeal for funds that a very large amount was raised, which left a substantial margin after all the celebrations were completed. As the committee had promised that any surplus would be devoted to a permanent memorial of the occasion, it was decided to obtain a statue of Queen Alexandra. The necessary royal permission having been secured, and Mr. George E. Wade, the well-known Court sculptor, having been selected by His Majesty, a contract was signed between the Hon. Mr. Hewett, the secretary of the Coronation Committee, and Mr. Wade in July 1896. Her Majesty sat to Mr. Wade but owing to unavoidable delays the statue was not completed until some three years later. Now however the period of delays seems at an end, and it is safe to assume that within a week or two the statue will be unveiled and Hongkong's loyal residents will have an opportunity of studying the lineaments of a queen who has won her way to the hearts of the people as few others have done and they will also have an opportunity of admiring a beautiful specimen of the sculptor's art.

Doubtless the unveiling will be marked with befitting ceremonial. The Hon. Mr. Hewett, when seen by our representative on July 9, stated that he has yet to inform His Excellency the Governor of what was being done. As a matter of fact he was surprised to learn that the work was so far advanced, and he hoped that His Excellency would be able to perform the opening ceremony, which would probably take place within two or three weeks. Continuing, Mr. Hewett remarked that scarcely one third of the members of the Coronation Committee as appointed were at present in the Colony. Several had died and a number had left for home. Among the latter was Sir William Goodman, the chairman, but the secretary (Mr. Hewett) and the treasurer (Mr. J. R. M. Smith) were still active members.

SUPPOSED MURDER NEAR SHAUKIWAN.

On July 9 the police received information of a supposed murder on the Stanley Road, near Chaiwan Gap. On the hillside above the road the body of a Chinese foreman, who has been employed in the Public Works Department for 18 years, was found in a mangled condition. There were numerous cuts on the trunk, head and legs, which are believed to have been inflicted with an axe. So far, the affair is shrouded in mystery.

ALLEGED MILK ADULTERATION.

The Sheung Tai Dairy, of 55, Elgin Road, Kowloon, was summoned at the Magistracy on July 13 before Mr. J. R. Wood for adulterating milk by adding water to it. No appearance was entered by defendant, and Mr. Frank Browne, Government analyst, pointed out that the summons was not returnable for a week. The summons was served on Saturday and according to the ordinance the man was entitled to a week's grace. His Worship held that Mr. Brown was right in what he said and directed that another summons should be issued.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on July 15 in the Council Chamber.

The following were present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, SIR FREDERICK JOHN DEALTRY LUGARD, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O.

Hon. COLONEL DARLING, R.E. (Acting G.O.C.).

Hon. Mr. A. M. THOMSON (Acting Colonial Secretary).

Sir HENRY BERKELEY, K.C. (Acting Attorney-General).

Hon. Mr. C. M. I. MESSER (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. Mr. P. N. H. JONES (Acting Director of Public Works).

Hon. Mr. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar-General).

Hon. Mr. F. J. BADELEY (Capt. Superintendent of Police).

Hon. Dr. HO KAI, K.C., C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. E. OSBORNE.

Hon. Mr. W. J. GRESSON.

Hon. Mr. E. A. HEWETT.

Hon. Mr. MURRAY STEWART.

Hon. Mr. WEI YUK, C.M.G.

Mr. C. CLEMENTI (Clerk of Councils).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table Financial Minute No. 31 and 32, and moved that it be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the report of the Finance Committee (No. 10) and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

COMPANIES (LOCAL REGISTERS) AMENDMENT ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Sir, with respect to the first item on the order of the day, the third reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Companies (Local Registers) Ordinance 1907, I move that the bill be re-committed to Committee in order that we may reconsider clause 4.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and Council went into committee on the bill.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Sir, It will be in the recollection of the committee that at the last meeting certain words were added to clause 4 which were, in effect, that a fee of \$100 should be paid for an authorisation under this section to the Registrar of Companies. The Committee will remember that the Government had proposed that \$10 should be the fee, but, on the motion by way of amendment of an hon. member, the sum was raised to \$100. Since the Committee rose it has been suggested to the Government that a more equitable way of calculating the fee would be on a sliding scale, the amount of which was to be based upon the amount of capital of the Company making the application in each case. That suggestion commends itself to the Government, and I will now move that the amount be altered from \$10 to \$25 in case of companies having a capital not exceeding \$25,000; to \$50 in cases of companies with a capital exceeding \$25,000 and not exceeding \$100,000; and to \$100 in cases of companies whose capital exceeds \$100,000. I am not sure whether that suggestion will meet with approval, but it seems a fairly excellent basis on which to go.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—I think we may reasonably ask for \$150 from companies whose capital is over half a million, and for \$200 from companies with a capital over one million, but I don't hold very strong views on the subject.

Hon. Mr. MURRAY STEWART—May I inquire what fees are charged in Singapore?

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—We don't know.

Hon. Mr. MURRAY STEWART—What would it cost to register in London?

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I don't know.

Hon. Mr. STEWART—We don't want to drive companies to register elsewhere.

Hon. Mr. OSBORNE—The object, Sir, of this amendment is to charge less to the small companies, but as this scale stands the company with a capital of \$25,000 pays \$1 per thousand. When it comes to a company with a capital of \$100,000 it pays fifty cents a thousand, while a company with over \$100,000 capital pays \$1 per thousand, so that in two instances companies would pay a dollar, and in the other instance fifty cents. My amendment is that the fee should be \$1 per thousand on the authorised capital, and that in no case shall the fee exceed \$250.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—What do you mean by the authorised capital?

Hon. Mr. OSBORNE—The capital authorised by the association.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—It must be the paid up capital. A company may have \$100,000 and \$50,000 paid up. The paid up capital is the capital they are working on.

Hon. Mr. OSBORNE—All right, make it paid up.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—This is an additional act imposed on the Registrar of the Court, and purely an administrative act. It would not take any more time or expense in the case of one company than in the case of another.

Hon. Mr. GRESSON—I quite agree with the Colonial Secretary, and I think it is very, very hard on these companies to have to pay such a sum. Take the Shanghai Investment Company, for instance. It will have to pay \$250 for a minimum of work, and I don't think it should be asked to pay it.

HIS EXCELLENCY—What fee would you propose?

Hon. Mr. GRESSON—I think the fees at present in the bill before us are quite reasonable.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—What, \$10?

Hon. Mr. GRESSON—No; \$25, \$50 and \$100.

Hon. Mr. OSBORNE—I think, Sir, that if there is any advantage whatever in these companies registering in Hongkong they can surely afford to pay what is, after all, a very small sum for each company. There is no doubt it entails a very large amount of work, which the colony has to pay for.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—It is a distinct advantage to companies formed outside the Colony to be registered in the Colony, and I think they ought to pay for it. I will second the Hon. Mr. Osborne's motion, and it can go before the Committee in the usual way.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I think we are all agreed that there should be a scale of sorts.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—I think the scale of the Government is too low.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I will put the hon. member's amendment to the committee. It is, "That there shall be paid for an authorisation under this section a fee of \$1 per thousand on the paid up capital, but in no case shall it exceed \$250."

On the amendment being put to the meeting it was carried by eight votes to five.

Council then resumed.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Sir, I beg to report to the Council that the Bill has passed through Committee with slight amendments. I think we are all agreed upon it, and as there will not be a meeting of the Council for some time to come I move for permission to have the Bill read a third time, and that the title be deemed sufficient.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the Bill was read a third time and passed.

THE RAILWAYS ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I move that the Council resolve itself into Committee to take the Bill entitled an Ordinance to regulate the construction and management of Railways into further consideration.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and Council went into Committee on the Bill.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—It will be in the recollection of the Committee that clauses 11 and 13 were left over for further consideration as they appeared to deal practically with the same subject. I move that sub-section 1 of clause 13 be deleted, and that sub-section 2 be struck out.

Hon. Mr. STEWART—What was the object of putting in both clauses in the original instance.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Section 1 was really attempting to put in clearer, shorter and more comprehensive language all that

is contained in section 13, clause 1. Section 11 is supposed to be better drafting than section 13, and we do not want them both.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—Sub-section D of section 13 seemed to give great protection to the railway as opposed to local agriculturists or whoever might be wanting to do things they should not do.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—It is a matter of language. Section 11 is all we want.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I have no objection to add a proviso to section 11.

Hon. Mr. GRESSON—I would suggest transferring C. and D. to section 11.

It was agreed that the whole of sub-section 11 of section 13 should be deleted and that the provisos C. and D. should be added at the end of section 11, that sub-section 2 should be erased and placed at the end of clause 13.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—As the Council will remember, at the meeting of the Committee the hon. Mr. Osborne suggested that some provision should be made by which the Railway Administration should be compelled to provide some means by which the sparks emitted at times from locomotive chimneys should be as far as possible prevented from setting fire to the surrounding country. The hon. member has very kindly sent me a clause to this effect. "All locomotives which from the nature of their fuel are liable to emit sparks shall be equipped with spark arrestors or other effective appliances for the prevention of fires caused by sparks." I think the suggestion is an admirable one, but should be given effect to not by a clause in the bill but regulations which the Ordinance gives the Governor-in-Council power to make from time to time for the good order and general working of the railway. It would be better if the suggestion were given effect to by an administrative order rather than by a legislative act.

Hon. Mr. OSBORNE—If this was a private railway the suggestion of the Attorney-General would be all right, and no doubt the Government would make regulations compelling a private company to do this, but I do not think the Government is likely to make regulations to compel itself.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I think the hon. Attorney General means that the Government will give a pledge.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI—What about the penalty? How can the Government make regulations and impose a penalty on itself?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—If by not taking proper precautions an engine set fire to crops the Government would have to pay.

Hon. Mr. OSBORNE—Private railways at home did not use this spark arrestor until they were compelled by the Board of Trade to do so.

HIS EXCELLENCY—The railway can be sued as a private company.

Hon. Mr. OSBORNE—I understand that the Government can do no wrong and that they cannot be sued.

HIS EXCELLENCY—There is a clause in the Bill.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—I take it, Your Excellency, that if a private company's railway destroys property they are liable to be called upon to pay compensation but I do not see the advantage of compelling the Government to fine itself. It is merely taking money out of one pocket to put it in another.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—There can be damages.

Hon. Mr. OSBORNE—We do not want to put a farmer to the expense of suing the Government if the action can be prevented.

HIS EXCELLENCY—This is rather a difficult matter, as you have selected one out of many damages that may occur on the railway. The railway stands like any other company to be sued for damages. I am prepared to give a promise that that shall be one of the regulations made.

Hon. Mr. OSBORNE—I am satisfied with your assurance, Sir.

On Council resuming,

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL reported that the Bill had passed through Committee with slight amendments, and moved that it be read a third time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a third time and passed.

PATENTS AMENDMENT ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—With reference to the next item on the orders of the day, the Committee on the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Patents Ordinance, you will remember when last I spoke on the subject I stated that the Bill had been sent to the Committee of the Law Society for consideration. The Bill is just returned to me and I have not had time to give consideration to the recommendations they have been good enough to make. I would ask that the Bill be postponed until next meeting.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—With regard to what the hon. Attorney-General has just said, the Patents Bill is rather an important one, and I trust you will agree—and I venture to suggest it might be a useful thing if Your Excellency agrees—to send the Bill to the Chamber of Commerce, because a good many members of that body would like to have an opportunity of expressing their opinion on it at the next meeting.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—It will be sent.
His EXCELLENCY—Council stands adjourned *sine die*.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was then held, the COLONIAL SECRETARY presiding. The following vote was passed:—

POLICE AND PRISON VOTE.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of One hundred and fifty Dollars (\$150) in aid of the vote, Police and Prison Departments. A.—Police, Other Charges, Furniture.

The CHAIRMAN—It was suggested to Government some time ago, and it has been decided to make Mount Gough Police Station partly a sanitarium for the police, and \$150 is required to furnish extra utensils necessary.

EDUCATION.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of One thousand nine hundred and seventy-six Dollars (\$1,976) in aid of the vote, Education, Other Charges, Grants, Principal Grants under Grant Code.

PRESENTATION TO MR. R. H. BAXTER.

Mr. R. H. Baxter, of the costs and estimating department of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, who leaves for home on Wednesday, was on Saturday night the recipient of a handsome tea and coffee service subscribed for by the Dock staff and presented in recognition of his many services on behalf of the social life of the British community at the Docks. A good number of the staff gathered together in the Recreation Room under the chairmanship of Mr. Stewart, the president of the Recreation Committee, and devoted the evening to song and sentiment and to the pleasures of tobacco. Mr. Stewart made the presentation, and in doing so expressed their indebtedness to Mr. Baxter for his contributions to their social enjoyment, and instancing his great achievements in producing "Rob Roy" and "The Silver King." At the latter performance the speaker predicted a great success next time, but with the departure of Mr. Baxter that was impossible now. In conclusion he said he had great pleasure on behalf of the committee in asking Mr. Baxter to accept that tea and coffee service. Mr. Davidson followed with a short speech, in which he bore testimony to the good qualities of their guest and associated Mrs. Baxter with the great success of the Dramatic Club. However they might differ in the Dock, there was complete unanimity when it was proposed to honour Mr. Baxter as they had done. Mr. Baxter made a feeling reply, in which he thanked them for their kindness to his wife and himself, and said that they found it a pleasure to engage in the work which gave pleasure to others.

Messrs. Brown, Grey, Taylor, Logan, Owen, Crispin, Baxter, Beck, Menzies and others contributed to the evening's pleasure.

The tea and coffee service was inscribed: "Presented to Mr. R. H. Baxter by the Kowloon Dock Staff on the occasion of his leaving, July, 1909."

V. R. C. DIAMOND JUBILEE

THE GOVERNOR'S CONGRATULATIONS.

To commemorate such an auspicious occasion as the diamond jubilee of the Victoria Recreation Club, the committee held an aquatic sports meeting on the 10th inst., and a smoking concert in the evening, both of which were well attended. In the course of the afternoon Mr. Frank Lammert, the hon. secretary, received the following letter from His Excellency the Governor:—

Mountain Lodge, Hongkong.

DEAR SIR,—Will you be so good as to offer to the members of the V. R. C. my most hearty congratulations on this 60th anniversary of its inauguration.

Probably at no time during these past sixty years has the Club been in a better condition than it is to-day, and I wish it every success and prosperity.—Yours very truly,

F. D. LUGARD,
President, V. R. C.

The Secretary, V. R. C.

Looking backward, it is interesting to note that the inaugural meeting at which it was decided to form the "Victoria Regatta Club" was held in the Hongkong Club House on July 11th, 1849. At that meeting there were twenty-six persons present, and the deliberations of these pioneer sportsmen gave birth to the V.R.C., the premier sporting club of the Colony and coming second to none in the East. For some years after its formation the V.R.C. was purely a rowing club, but latterly it has embraced all kinds of sport and there is no doubt that its members include many of the finest athletes in the Colony. A cosmopolitan club fitted with an excellent gymnasium and possessing numerous advantages not to be found in other clubs, there is little wonder that it is in so flourishing a condition. Its membership now numbers some 400 members, and the roll is being increased weekly. The oldest member of the Club at the present time is the Hon. Sir Paul Chater, who was enrolled as far back as 1865, while Messrs. F. A. Hazeland and G. A. Caldwell joined in 1879, Mr. A. Rodger in 1880 and Messrs. J. J. Leiria, A. Denison and G. P. Lammert in 1881.

THE AQUATIC SPORTS.

The strings of flags floating above the commodious club-house of the V. R. C. proclaimed a gala day, and those who assembled at the enclosure in the afternoon to witness the swimming feats must have been well pleased with the afternoon's sport. The swimming races, the diving and the plunging were well worth seeing, but the most amusing event of the day was the duck hunt. The second duck let loose upon the water led the many competitors a long and trying chase before it was caught by Mr. A. S. Ellis. The swimmer succeeded in cornering the bird at the junction of the Praya wall and the entrance to the V.R.C., and as the duck dived Mr. Ellis followed and brought it to the surface. The different events resulted as under:—

TWO LENGTHS HANDICAP.—First heat, J. Fenwick; Second heat, H. W. Petersen, 1; A. S. Ellis, 2; Third heat, C. A. Rodrigues, 1; P. M. Remedios, 2.

RUNNING HEADER.—M. A. R. Souza, 1; F. B. Silva and H. W. Petersen tied for second place.

FOUR LENGTHS HANDICAP.—A. S. Ellis, 1; P. M. Remedios, 2. Time—2 min.

TWO LENGTHS TIME RACE.—L. E. Lammert and H. Jephson tied, each man covering the distance in one minute thirty-one seconds, while the time fixed was one minute thirty seconds.

PLUNGING.—A. S. Ellis, 44 feet, 1; J. M. Roza, 43 feet, 2; F. K. Tata, 42 feet, 3.

DUCK RACE.—Won by A. S. Ellis.

TEAM RACE.—Won by a team composed of W. J. Carroll, Silva Netto, M. A. R. Souza, P. M. O. Remedios, F. L. Roza, A. J. V. Ribeiro and A. V. Barros.

WATER POLO MATCH.

The sports concluded with a scratch game of water polo between two V. R. C. teams, the Whites and the Blues. The sides were well matched, and the spectators watched a fast and exciting game which ended in a win for the blues by one goal, the final scores being:

Blues	2 goals
Whites	1

THE "SMOKER."

The spacious gymnasium, where budding athletes generally assemble to exercise, was given over to scenes of revelry. It had been completely transformed, mainly through the artistic abilities of Mr. C. Lesbirel and Mr. C. H. Parkinson. The room throughout was neatly dressed with a plentiful supply of bunting, while the entrance to it was lined with Chinese lanterns. On the facade of the Club-house the letters V.R.C. and the figures 1849-1909 were depicted by fairy lamps, and shone brightly out in the darkness of night.

Mr. Frank Lammert, secretary of the Club, presided over a comfortably filled room, and called upon the orchestra of the Sociedade Philharmonica for an opening selection. Well-merited applause succeeded the music, and other equally pleasing items were contributed during the evening by this talented combination. Had the good humour of the audience not then been established it most certainly would have been after hearing Mr. L. E. Lammert's song "I claim you mine," for which he was deservedly encored. Professor Gonzales' violin solo "Scene de ballet," was a rare musical treat, and there was little wonder that his auditors were emphatic in their demand for an encore. Mr. White's rendering of "The Night Watch" was much appreciated, and Mr. W. G. Worcester proved an admirable comic singer. His singing of "Topsy Turvy" so delighted his hearers that he was twice recalled. "The English Rose" was a song suitable to the fine tenor voice of Mr. E. B. Ayris, and the flattering reception accorded him was ample testimony of the appreciation of the audience. Mr. R. L. Bridger's dashing comic song "The Noisy Johnnie" proved an acceptable item, while Mr. Goldsmith's French song was also favourably received. Mr. L. E. Lammert obliged again with "A Jolly Old Cavalier," and once more the great applause accorded him was commensurate with the worth of his song. The concert ended about midnight, with the singing of the National Anthem. Mr. George Grimble acted as accompanist.

Mr. F. Lammert, the Hon. Secretary, Mr. C. Lesbirel and all others who took an active part in making the sports and the smoking concert the great success they were are to be heartily congratulated upon the successful celebration of this important anniversary.

AN INTERESTING POINT.

An interesting point cropped up on July 9 in discussing a case before the Puisne Judge in the Supreme Court. Mr. Davidson, from the office of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings, objected to Mr. Jackson, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master, setting out a defence by pleadings in a certain case, as he understood his friend was only going to put in a counter claim. Mr. Jackson, he contended, had not obtained permission from the Court to file pleading and he (the speaker) thought he ought not to be charged with their costs in the event of the decision being against him. Amid laughter Mr. Jackson naively replied that he was not going to charge his friend with the cost of setting out the pleadings, as they had been copied direct from Bullen and Leak. Subsequently Mr. Davidson informed his Lordship that Mr. Jackson told him he was not going to charge counsel's fees for setting out the pleadings, but he was going to charge him with setting out the pleadings himself. Mr. Jackson replied that he had obtained leave to serve a defence, and that that was not the time to argue the question of costs.

Mr. Davidson—I mention it because the facts are fresh in your Lordship's mind. There might be a difficulty later. He never got leave for those pleadings.

Mr. Jackson—I got liberty from your Lordship. If my friend did not know what I was asking for he should have obtained an explanation.

His Lordship—I might have to decide that question.

Mr. Jackson—It is sufficient to mention it to your Lordship.

The matter was not pursued further.

TRANSFER OF LICENCE REFUSED.

A meeting of the Justices of the Peace was called for on the 12th inst. at the Magistracy to consider an application from R. H. Whittaker for a licence to sell by retail intoxicating liquors at No. 1 Queen's Road East under the name of the Victoria Hotel in exchange for and on surrendering the licence now held by him in respect of the Praya East Hotel. Mr. F. A. Hazeland presided, and there were also present Mr. F. J. Badeley (captain superintendent of police), Mr. J. R. Wood, and Mr. C. D. Melbourne.

Mr. Barlow, of Messrs. Goldring, Barlow and Morrell, who appeared for the applicant, said that the application was before the Justices on June 25th, when Mr. Hooper was present. Mr. Barlow found that what he then said with respect to Mr. Hooper's appearance was not correct. Mr. Hooper said he had an objection to make but he would make it in private, which was sufficient reason to invalidate the meeting. What he suggested of course was that Mr. Hooper should have made his complaint in public so that Mr. Whittaker would know what he was up against. His client, he held, did not get a proper hearing. If sufficient objection had been properly brought forward and made in public of course his client would have been satisfied. That was the reason why he made this second application and he trusted to getting a fair hearing. There was a slight difference in the form of the application, but that was necessary if he had to petition the Governor. As he said before, one of the reasons for the application was that the traffic had been diverted from the existing premises, which were unsatisfactory on account of the water and mud which gathered on the floors. The general convenience of the public would be met in the new premises and he submitted that the Justices should grant the application. The licensee was entitled to consideration. All licensees of course paid a heavy licence fee and the public also were entitled to consideration. The new premises were more suitable, and unless there was some valid objection he submitted that the Justices should allow the transfer. He believed his client was the only British licensee except the Hongkong Hotel, and while he did not enter into the merits of any particular case his client suggested that other licensees got more facility for moving their licence. The first application was refused and so far as he knew there was no objection except that which Mr. Hooper said he had to bring forward and which he presumed he had brought forward. In conclusion he pointed out that the traffic had gone to another place and his client was losing money. He hoped, however, to make good in the new premises. He has had the opinion of his customers who are of opinion that the new premises would be more suitable.

The Justices considered their decision *in camera*, and when Mr. Barlow was called in he was informed that the Justices could not see their way to accede to the application. Their objection was to the locality. They had no objection to the applicant.

THE ESCAPED PRISONER RECAPTURED.

ATTEMPTS TO COMMIT SUICIDE.

The Chinese prisoner who made the sensational escape from Victoria Jail about a week ago has at last been recaptured, through information supplied, we understand, by another prisoner. It appears that the fugitive, before leaving the jail, told another man where he intended going should he be successful in eluding the police. This second prisoner, after keeping the secret for a week, at length yielded to a desire to make it known, the result being that the fugitive was captured in a house at West Point. When placed in the waiting cell at the Central Station, the prisoner attempted to strangle himself with his coat, and on being relieved of this by the police he made a second attempt with his trousers. After this Inspector Smith placed a lukong on guard over him until the man was charged before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy on Saturday with escaping from jail. When he heard the evidence, His Worship sentenced the accused to a further term of six months' imprisonment with hard labour.

NOTES FROM THE CAPITAL.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

June 30th.

OFFICIAL CHANGES.

There have been quite a number of important official events recently. The chief, perhaps, is the return to his duties of H. E. Na Tung Na Tung is the Manchu successor of the Chinese Yuan Shih Kai, and is a man of very different character and calibre from the former President of the Waiwupu. He is wholly in the hands of the Japanese, and is understood to be in dread as to the coming negotiations with the Japanese Minister on the Fakumen Railway, Chientao and other questions. It is expected that he will sacrifice Chinese interests and that there will be trouble in consequence for the whole régime. Even the Prince-Regent will be on his trial, so to speak, during the coming months.

DEATH OF THE METROPOLITAN VICEROY.

You will have received news of the death of H. E. Viceroy Yang of Chihli and of the appointment of Viceroy Tuan of Nanking as his successor. I can, however, give you some details that have not appeared in print. H. E. Yang began to suffer from Bright's disease more than two years ago when Governor of Shantung. At Tsinanfu, however, he seems to have limited himself to Chinese doctors and Chinese medicines. This resulted in the disease becoming chronic instead of being stopped as it might have been had competent European medical skill been invoked. I mention this detail because it seems a pity that such a life should have been sacrificed at the early age of fifty, when its owner was in high favour with the Prince-Regent, and was by the agreement of all marked out for future high advancement.

Yang came to Tientsin and did well—better than anyone anticipated, especially of one following so distinguished a predecessor as Yuan Shih Kai. But the insidious disease was present all the time. Yang had both domestic and public worries.

Before he succeeded Yuan Shih Kai, Viceroy Yang was Governor of Shantung, and, coming much into contact with the Germans at Kiaochau and elsewhere in that province, and with other foreigners not having much communication, he naturally acquired a German bias. He is certainly the most pro-German Viceroy there ever was in Chihli. The Germans got the concession to build the northern section of the Tientsin-Pukou Railway, and naturally made the most of it from their own standpoint. The Director of this section was Taotai Li Te Shun, a German-speaking official who married a German lady. The merchants and gentry of Tientsin and Chihli impeached him for corruption with the result that an official was sent from the capital to Tientsin to make investigations, the outcome being a recommendation that Li Te Shun should be dismissed. To this recommendation effect was promptly given. This culmination produced Viceroy Yang's seizure.

Here are some entirely new and perfectly authenticated particulars. After the anxious day of the Li Te Shun affair, H. E. had dinner, but was feeling ill at ease. His kidney disorder was worse, and it affected his stomach and digestive system. Yang would find relief in music. He was an excellent musician himself and he would sing. So he ordered in his orchestra and started singing. All know the familiar falsetto. Yang was extraordinarily effective in this method of vocal exercise. He went on till he got to a passage of very high notes, and these required some chest expansion to get out. While thus singing he suddenly became faint and dizzy. He sank into a chair, and immediately lost the use of one side and became speechless. Doctors both European and Chinese were sent for, and under the care of the European he was brought slowly but surely on the way to recovery from the stroke. But the stroke aggravated the Bright's disease, and this he would not allow the European doctors to treat properly. Both he and members of his family favoured the Chinese doctors, some of whom were qualified and some of whom were quacks. He swallowed large quantities of Chinese nostras and would not take the European

doctors' prescriptions. On the Friday before his death he defied the European doctors altogether, getting up and sitting on the side of his bed with his feet dangling on the floor.

That finished him. He fell back unconscious and remained so. The family were glad then to have the European doctors, who had been banished from the apartment for two days. They came, but it was too late. They kept him alive on oxygen till Sunday morning, but he was dying all the time, and suddenly expired about 8 o'clock.

Yang had no connection with your district, but his death affects it, as it has involved the removal of Viceroy Chang from Canton to Nanking. It had been obvious that Yang's official career was terminated whether he survived a long or a short time.

THE NEW RAILWAY DIRECTOR.

An excellent successor to Li Te Shun as Director of the Tientsin-Pukou Railway has been appointed in the Chief Engineer of the Peking-Kalgan Railway, Taotai Jeme Tien Yow, who has constructed the Peking-Kalgan line himself without the assistance of any foreign engineer whatever. This line, by the by, is now completed, and will be opened for traffic for its whole length next month.

A "PUBLIC SERVANT" DEFINED.

A case of more than ordinary interest has been engaging the attention of Mr. Hazeland at the Magistracy for some time. A bailiff's watchman was charged on three charges with accepting bribes from three men, namely, \$3, \$1 and \$1, he being then a public servant. Mr. W. E. L. Shenten, of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon, appeared in support of the prosecution and Mr. Leo d'Almada e Castro appeared for the defendant.

The case, which came on for hearing last week, was concluded yesterday afternoon. The evidence of the prosecution was to the effect that on the afternoon of the 25th June last the bailiff and two watchmen came to their premises 332, Queen's Road West, second floor, and distrained for rent. The complainants were lodgers on the premises and they insisted upon their right to remove their effects as they owed no money to their immediate landlord, who was the tenant of the floor. Defendant, it was said, asked for the three sums of money mentioned as tea money. The complainants were cross-examined at length by Mr. d'Almada, who set up the defence (1) that the defendant was not a public servant within the meaning of the Ordinance, (2) that assuming that he was a public servant, on the evidence he did not take the bribes with a view to their influencing his conduct as a public servant, and that as defendant received his salary from the Suitors' Fund Ordinance he did not receive his salary from the revenue of the Government, and therefore could not be considered a public servant; (3) a total denial of the defence.

After hearing the evidence his Worship gave his decision on July 12. He said that before proceeding with the merits of the case he thought he should first state what he considered a good definition of public servant. He had been guided in that opinion by having consulted one who was well versed in such matters and who was a reliable authority. The definition was "one who performs functions of the Crown except military and naval." As the defendant had signed a bond with the Government to secure his services as watchman his Worship was bound to decide that the defendant was a public servant within the meaning of the Ordinance. On the merits of the case he came to the conclusion that the evidence was not strong enough to convict, there being several discrepancies in the evidence of the complainants, and he must therefore order his discharge. He emphasised the fact that the landlord had good reason for incurring the expense of the prosecution, as he had reason to believe that on many previous occasions when distraint was made for rent the proceeds of the sale of the furniture and effects never covered the rent due to him.

Formerly in command of the Boston Steamship Company's steamer *Shawmut*, Captain E. V. Roberts on June 11th took over the command of the Hill liner *Minnesota* in place of Captain Charles Austin, who has been her master for several years.

NOTES FROM JAPAN.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Tokyo, July 2nd.

A STATEMENT ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Mr. Ishii, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, has issued a statement on the condition of several pending questions that is of interest. With regard to Pratas Island the Minister says Japan has never laid claim to the island, but has looked upon it as a no-man's land, ownerless. But on the Chinese putting in a claim to ownership Japan did not hesitate to recognise China's rights. The claims of a Japanese who was engaged in collecting manure there are being subject to investigation and on the settlement of this matter China will henceforth assume the government of the island. The sum total of the Japanese trader's demands amount to 500,000 yen. The Kirin-Changchun railway negotiation will shortly be settled. Construction is to be undertaken by Chinese, while Japan furnishes half the funds and the chief engineer. The Antung-Mukden railway affairs, which has newly arisen should be very easy of settlement, the principal business of Japan being to press upon China the necessity of observing the conditions of a treaty.

THE LATEST ISSUE.

A few weeks ago Viceroy Sih was appointed to the Three Eastern Provinces, and owing to the fact that this high official seemed bent on carrying out drastic reforms among the official personnel of his government, it was thought in Japan that here was the right man in the right place, and it appeared that a really energetic Viceroy had at last taken charge. But His Excellency Sih had hardly settled down before he began to wake things up in the wrong direction and to embroil his country in one more international affair. He objected to the transformation into a broad-gauge line of the Antung-Mukden light railway and demanded the withdrawal of the Japanese railway guards and police. Whatever doubts there may be in other questions between Japan and China it seems clear in this case that the Viceroy has blundered, although there is doubtless policy in the blundering. A vigorous protest was made by the Japanese Consul-General at Mukden, when the Viceroy avoided further discussion for the time being by starting off for Kirin, attended by 160 officials by the way to effect more drastic reforms among the trembling office-holders. Japan's claim seems to be incontestable. It is based upon an article in the Peking treaty of 1905, in which the line may be improved for the purposes of a commercial highway, and the broadening of the gauge is part of this improvement. Further, according to the agreement, Japan is to transfer the whole line to China fifteen years after the transformation of the railway, in which case it is to China's interest that the work be done as soon as possible. The great object of this transformation is the establishment of a direct trunk line from Fusan to Changchun under Japanese management, when the most direct route between Tokyo and London will be via Fusan and Antung. Naturally it would prove a dangerous rival to the Vladivostok route and also, probably, to other Chinese or Russian interests. But if time can be saved by this new means of communication and distance lessened, the work should be accomplished.

THE YOKOHAMA JUBILEE.

We have had little else but rain for the past ten days, but Yokohama escaped yesterday, the 50th anniversary of her existence as a treaty port, with nothing more than an overcast sky. In other respects the weather was quite seasonable—an atmosphere damp and close, making life burdensome, especially with the addition of a frock coat, top hat, tall collar, and all those things that human beings persist in wearing against all the dictates of reason. The ambassadors were there, and there was as much speech-making as such an occasion demands. Something like thirty thousand yen were spent on yesterday's celebrations, yet Yokohama is poor, some parts of it are dreadfully poor; trade is anything but flourishing, and it does seem that the money spent on these doubtful enjoyments could have been used to much greater advantage of the people. A permanent memorial of the first fifty years of Yokohama as

an open port is to take the form of a Memorial Hall, and 500,000 yen are being raised for this purpose, of which over two hundred thousand have been already subscribed.

THE HONGKONG GARRISON TEAM.

The compliment has been paid the officers from your port of having brought Hongkong weather with them, for it has been little else but rain since they have been here. Yet between showers there has been some good sport, and in other ways the holiday has been so enjoyable that it is likely to become an annual affair. If the truth were known the officers have probably enjoyed their stay in Kobe most, for the unrivalled links of that port on Rokkasan not only furnish excellent golf at an altitude of 2,500 feet, but superb views and a pleasant mountain and club life, while in Yokohama or Tokyo they were restricted to an indifferent existence on the flat.

THE SUGAR SCANDAL TRIALS.

The Court of First Instance has excelled itself in the energy with which it has proceeded with the trial of the M.P.s charged with the offence of receiving bribes. For about thirty days, Sundays excepted, the hearing has proceeded, and it is evident the court had special instructions to hasten the case, for the "promptitude and despatch" shown in this trial are quite remarkable. Judgment is to be given tomorrow. The procurator, all the defendants having been found guilty in the preliminary court, advocated punishment of from one year downwards and fines of 3,000 yen downwards in all cases, but recommended suspension of the execution of sentence in one or two instances. Among the latter is the defendant Yokoi, whose career, until he accepted a bribe of 2,000 yen, was considered to be of the most promising character. Yokoi is a leading Christian, was formerly a clergyman, and abandoned the cloth for something more worldly and substantial. He was looked upon as a leader of young Japan and an example to be followed. He studied philosophy at Yale for two years, but suddenly changed his way of life, became a politician, entered the Diet, was subsequently Editor of the *Nichi Nichi* and correspondent of a London paper. The tribulations of this defendant since his arrest have been very keen, and procurator and counsel have referred at length to his repentance. It is possible we may hear again of Yokoi. A man of his abilities should not be condemned utterly for one false step.

In connection with scandals the preliminary court has found the accused guilty in the Dai Nippon Marine Products Co. prosecution. This company failed after a brief career, and from the beginning it seems the directors, General Enya and his associates, did much as they liked with the funds of the company. Judging by the finding of the procurator the scandal in this case is much more flagrant than in the case of the Dai Nippon Sugar Co., though the importance and standing of the two concerns differ widely.

THE IMPERIAL HOTELS, LTD.

The two principal hotels in Tokyo have up to the present been managed by foreigners, a Swiss at the Imperial and a German at the Metropole. Both these hotels are run by the Imperial Hotels Co., Ltd., and although profits have not been great they have paid a dividend of about 6 per cent. The day before yesterday, however, a sudden council of the directors was held, when the Metropole was closed and the foreign managers and all other foreign employees were dismissed. As these disconcerting proceedings took place in a single afternoon the astonishment of those concerned and not less the surprise of the guests at the hotels can be easily imagined. In a statement issued to the Press the directors say in effect that the reason for the sudden change is unremunerative business, caused in no small degree by the great expense of the foreign managers and other employees. This action of the directors, however, is probably the sequel to the recent change in the chairman of directors, Mr. K. Okura, the well-known Tokyo merchant, having succeeded Baron Shibusawa, who recently retired. Mr. Okura is an energetic man who believes that Japanese can do things quite as well as foreigners, and in the matter of hotel management he is probably right, for what is reputed the best managed foreign hotel in the country is a Japanese concern, namely, the Fujiya at Miyazoshita. If Japanese can run

first-class steamships, why can't they manage first-class hotels, argues Mr. Okura, and so the foreigners have had to go. Mr. Hans Moser, manager of the Imperial, had a three-years' agreement, of which eighteen months were served. Six months' notice on either side was sufficient to terminate this agreement and Mr. Moser has been handed six months' salary, at the rate of 700 yen a month. Others have been treated in like manner, and in a week, we are informed, will be en route home. According to the press reports a curious procedure was taken by the directors with reference to the dismissal of Mr. Moser. They dispatched a messenger to the Swiss Legation to inform the Minister of the reasons for dismissal, probably in order to forestall unfavourable rumours. If the dismissal of Mr. Moser and other foreigners is considered desirable by the directors, and so long as the Japanese observe their contracts, surely there is no need to make a diplomatic affair of the business. It has nothing to do with the Swiss Legation.

JOURNALISTIC.

Recently there was formed in Tokyo a society of newspapermen called the International Press Association of Japan. The idea in the minds of some of those who joined the society at the outset was that it should be a sort of club, where local men could meet visitors to Tokyo, native as well as foreign journalists, would have a centre whither to repair for a quiet drink and talk amid surroundings not so uncongenial, say, as those of an hotel. This idea is capable of great development, but a start seems to have been made in the wrong direction. The society started off with a dinner to princes and statesmen. One can overlook this as one is in Japan, for here it is the custom to have a very flourishing beginning. At that dinner something like a thousand yen was sunk in eating and drinking, but, again, as this is the custom of the country, one must gracefully submit. The writer of this note was congratulating himself that the inaugural dinner was over, and that there was now a probability of the committee getting down to work, when he was informed that one of the members, and a foreigner at that, was not satisfied with having entertained several princes, counts and journalist-statesmen, but wanted to dine the whole diplomatic corps! This disaster was fortunately averted and things went along smoothly for a few weeks. It is not unnatural in the circumstances that these proceedings provoked criticism from foreign papers, which allege that the society is official. This is a serious indictment and, individually, the majority of the members would resent such an imputation. In the accepted meaning of the word the society is not official. Probably some of the members are pro-official, as in the case of the gentleman above referred to, whose idea of a grand start and success is to be on good terms with the diplomatic corps. But the majority of this society are hoping it will do something useful, both in the way of reforming and elevating the Japanese press and bringing foreign press representatives together. The great majority of the members of the society being Japanese they have it in their hands to do good in a direction where improvement is badly needed. The Japanese press nowadays has representatives all over the world and especially in all the centres of Asia. These men show no lack of enterprise, but they do show a disregard of the value of facts. Now this is not the fault of the representatives abroad, but the fault of the newspaper editors in Tokyo, and it is not exaggerating in the slightest to say that the Press Association would be doing a real international service in considering this matter and instructing their representatives not to sacrifice truth to enterprise. Of course such charges can be brought against foreigners also, but as the Press Association is practically a Japanese society they have it in their power to chiefly exert influence on their own countrymen.

A Naval Yard employee, who on being searched at the gate by an Indian policeman was found to have in his possession a quantity of brass and copper. He struggled with the policeman and assaulted him, but this only aggravated his offence. Yesterday Mr. Hasland at the Magistracy sentenced him to two months' imprisonment and six hours in the stocks.

COMPANY REPORT.

INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION
COMPANY, LIMITED.

The twenty-seventh annual report of the board of directors states:—

The directors now submit their report and statement of accounts for the year 1908.

The depression in Trade and Shipping, to which allusion was made in last year's report, was intensified during 1908, and the year's accounts show a loss of £33,255. 15s. 9d. To meet this, and to provide for the depreciation of the fleet, £55,358. 12s., £80,000 has been taken from the underwriting account and £10,000 from the general reserve fund. After making these appropriations, and meeting all expenses chargeable upon the year, there remains a balance of £15,162. 0s. 8d., which will be carried forward.

The later reports from China have been of a more reassuring character. Freights in many directions have shown a considerable improvement, and there is reason to hope that this improvement will be continued. A committee of the board has been for some time, and still is, closely considering the heads of expenditure with a view to effecting any economies which might be found possible.

No additions have been made to the Company's fleet during 1908, and no building contracts have been entered into.

During the present year advantage has been taken of low rates to cover the bulk of the insurance on the fleet outside, instead of carrying it in the company's underwriting account.

The retiring directors are Mr. W. Paterson and Mr. W. W. Dickinson, who, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

Messrs. Turquand, Youngs & Co., the Auditors, retire and will be proposed for re-election.

By order of the Board.

A. G. WELLS, Secretary

29, Cornhill, London, 19th June, 1909.

BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1908.

LIABILITIES.		£	s.	d.
To share capital:—Authorized				
£1,200,000, divided into 120,000				
6 per cent. cumulative preferred				
ordinary shares of £5 each.				
Subscribed and paid up—				
49,589. cumulative				
ordinary... £247,945 0 0				
49,589 deferred				
ordinary... 247,945 0 0				
495,890 0 0				
To first mortgage debentures—				
First issue of £345,000				
Subscribed and issued... 265,825 0 0				
Also £60,000 issued and lodged				
with bankers as security for				
temporary loans as may be				
required.				
To balance of underwriting ac-				
count... 148,891 18 11				
To sundry creditors in London				
and China... 78,823 13 8				
To loans... 19,000 0 0				
To deposits... 19,095 15 9				
To balance from revenue account				
15,162 0 8				
£1,042,688 9 0				
ASSETS.		£	s.	d.
By steamships, hulks,				
ferry boats, &c. 988,054 18 4				
Less depreciation				
written off for				
this year... 55,358 12 0				
932,696 6 4				
By coals and provisions on board				
ships and godowns... 10,895 7 0				
By office furniture... 58 1 0				
By sundry debtors in London				
and China Agents' balances,				
freights, &c. 70,016 10 11				
By cash in London and China... 12,605 11 5				
By expenses of de-				
benture issue... £18,240 12 9				
Less written off				
at the rate of 10				
per cent. per				
annum... 1,824 1 3				
16,416 11 6				
£1,042,688 9 0				

REVENUE ACCOUNT.

For the year ending 31st December, 1908.							
Dr.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.			
To general charges and telegrams in London and China, including directors, trustees and auditors fees				6,607	17	4	
To general interest.				4,698	4	2	
To debenture interest				12,636	10	6	
To expenses of debenture issue, amount written of				1,824	1	3	
To loss on working of steamers for the year				7,489	2	6	
				33,255		15	9
To depreciation account :—On steamships, &c.				55,358	12	0	
To balance transferred to balance sheet				15,162	0	8	
				£103,776		8	5
Cr.				£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
By balance brought forward from 1907				28,632	1	5	
Less dividend paid				14,876	14	0	
				13,755		7	5
By amount transferred :—From general reserve fund				10,000	0	0	
From underwriting-account				80,000	0	0	
				90,000		0	0
By transfer fees				21	1	0	
				£103,776		8	5

HALF YEARLY DIVIDENDS.

The Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Co., Ltd., announce an interim dividend of one dollar per share for the past half year.

The Directors of the Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd., have declared an interim dividend of 6 per cent. for the half year ended June 30.

We are officially authorised to state that, subject to audit, the Directors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation will recommend at the forthcoming meeting:—

Dividend of £2 per share.
Add to the Reserve Fund, \$750,000.
And carry forward about \$20,000,000.

We are officially informed that subject to audit the Directors of the Hongkong Canton and Macao Steamboat Co. will recommend the following appropriation of profits at the Half-Yearly Meeting to be held on the 10th proximo:—

Dividend of \$1.25 per share=\$100,000
Write off book value of steamers, wharves and properties, \$30,000. Transfer to Depreciation and Insurance Fund, \$14,000. Transfer of Special Repairs Fund \$10,000, and carry forward \$21,170.01 to New Account.

HONGKONG UNIVERSITY.

A largely attended meeting of high provincial officials, gentry and leading commercial men called by the Viceroy, was held at Canton on Thursday. The Provincial Treasurer urged upon those present the advisability of raising one half of the fund required for the Hongkong University so as to show that the Chinese were interested in the Scheme. Those present subscribed over \$20,000, and His Excellency Chang Pat Chi promised to raise \$100,000 from the merchants of Waichow, Chingchow, and KaHing. Including the sum of \$200,000 subscribed by the officials some time ago, the promised subscriptions from various sources in the province now amount to over \$300,000. The meeting decided to convene an assembly of the leading merchants of the 72 Guilds and the members of the nine Charitable Institutions for Friday so as to distribute subscription lists.

THE SHANGHAI DOCK AND
ENGINEERING CO., LD.

ADVISED TO "WAKE UP!"

SHAREHOLDERS DECLINE TO FOLLOW THE
HONGKONG DOCK CO.'S EXAMPLE.

At the annual meeting of shareholders of this Company last week,

Mr. MORGAN PHILLIPS said he wished to refer to the company's position, and more especially with regard to its management, which, in the view of a large number of shareholders, was not satisfactory. He would tell how he became a shareholder, as he thought it pointed a moral. A few years ago he proposed to make the first investment in his life, in stocks and shares, and he consulted a friend who was a stockbroker. The gentleman highly recommended Docks—then known as Farnham's—saying that the quotation was a low one, and that he hoped they would move up to a higher plane. The contract note was a melancholy object; he had purchased ten shares at Tls. 267.50, amounting in all to Tls. 2,675. Since that day the shares had not reached that exalted and heavenly plane which his friend had suggested at the time. He feared that they would not do so in his or the Chairman's lifetime. His next venture was fifteen shares at something like Tls. 200, and his next was about four years ago, when some of the keenest business minds in Shanghai went in for the purchase of Dock shares, and the price was then Tls. 150. He bought fifty at Tls. 156.50. Since then they had declined in value, and without doubt the property was over-capitalized, but he saw no reason at this time why the shares should not be worth Tls. 150, instead of the miserable Tls. 80 at which they stood on the market at the present day. It was the opinion of a great many shareholders that the decline was due to inefficient management. He was not going to criticize the accounts in detail, as his objects were constructive, not destructive. In 1906 the net profits were Tls. 410,000, in 1908 Tls. 300,000, and this year they were 212,000. The economies in the expenses of the directorate effected in 1907, amounting to Tls. 88,000, ought to have enabled them to make large profits this year. He asserted that the management conducted its affairs on the old lines of little competition and huge profits, and that it could not accommodate itself to new ideas and new conditions. There was now the great Taikoo Dock at Hongkong, where most of the ships controlled by Messrs. Butterfield and Swire would go for repairs; there was the well-equipped Kiangnan Dock, and similar enterprises were springing up, such as the Vulcan Iron Works, and the New Engineering and Shipbuilding Co. He thought that the establishment of the last business was the greatest reflection upon their own business that could possibly be made. The mere fact that it should be started in these depressed times, and apparently able successfully to compete with their own docks, which were of such long standing and preponderating position, should have been impossible, and reflected upon their management. Work which should come to their company was going elsewhere, as ship-owners did not remember with gratitude the days when the work had to go to Farnham, Boyd's. The tendering of the company was inefficient, as was shown by the fact that its tenders for four tugs, for the Haiho Conservancy were not even considered. The shareholders also complained that there was complete lack of enterprise and activity in meeting altered conditions. If there was not much shipbuilding work it should turn its attention to other fields of engineering, such as the railway. Large quantities of railway material, and wagons were being delivered in Shanghai, which only required to be made up in Shanghai, and if the company could make it up there would be an immense saving of freight. In conclusion Mr. Phillips said that what he did say to the management was "wake up and do something, and don't allow our magnificent property and business to languish and die."

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. J. PRENTICE) said that the Directors wrote to Mr. Phillips saying that they were perfectly satisfied with the management of the Company. If the work was not in

the port, how could they get it. Without fear of contradiction he said that they had done considerably more than the other people; and ships did not go past them so much now. Mr. Phillips had spoken about the Yangtsepoos Dock. He considered that they had a great deal of courage to build such a dock when the Dock and Engineering Co.'s docks were empty for half the year. Before saying that it was a great success Mr. Phillips should wait until the end of the year.

Mr. PHILLIPS—I hardly said it was a great success. I said "started successfully."

The CHAIRMAN said that, with reference to the four tugs, their tender was cut out because they had not sufficient freeboard. The specification gave no freeboard and no beam. If they had been treated as the Kiangnan Dock was treated, they would have been told:—"You have put too little freeboard; give us six inches more freeboard." Forty-five tenders were sent in and their price was fifth or sixth. Some of the tenders were cut out because they were too narrow, others too wide, although according to specification draft and speed were guaranteed. As to the Taikoo Dock they could not feel the influence of that dock more this year than they did last, because most of the ships did dock in the South. If trade revived—they knew that trade had been very bad and people were not putting in ships to dock this year—they would get their share of it. As regarded the management, they made a suggestion to shareholders that an expert should be got out from Home to give a report on the whole concern. Mr. Phillips had asked why they did not launch out in the direction of railway material. They tendered for the bridges on the Tientsin-Pukou Railway and their's was fifth or sixth. It was a big contract. They did a good deal of constructional work. He did not think that it would pay anyone out here to go in for wagon making, but they could make wheels or axles by hydraulic pressure and they were just as far ahead in this as anyone else. Did Mr. Phillips suggest that they should go in for locomotive building?

Mr. PHILLIPS said that he did not think that. But railway wagons were sent out here to be made up.

The CHAIRMAN said that they could easily do that, but did not get an opportunity. All these wagons were put up by the railway people. If there was anything going they were after it; of that he could assure the shareholders. The expert from home would cost £1,200 to £1,500, and it was for shareholders to say whether they wanted to spend that money or not. The Directors were quite satisfied, but it was for the shareholders to decide.

Mr. PHILLIPS said that he would like someone else to speak on that. Probably an expert coming out here would be completely unacquainted with local conditions.

The CHAIRMAN said that they proposed to get out the same sort of man as they got out for Hongkong.

Mr. KING said that if an expert like that was to come out and report on this property he would ruin it. He would look at it from the point of view of one accustomed to modern machinery and modern shipyards, and if such an expert should report of this company he would ruin it.

The CHAIRMAN said that they had a Mr. Lane up the other day.

Mr. CRAIG said that Mr. Lane did not enter into the question of the management at all. He spoke very highly of the stock, its usefulness and value. He also spoke very highly on the shops and yards. As to work there was no work for him to see.

Mr. KING replied that he knew Mr. Lane and he was not accustomed to new things like the man about whom Mr. Prentice spoke.

The CHAIRMAN—I don't suppose we are equal to John Brown and Co.

Mr. HOGG was of opinion that it was inexpedient to have such an expert out from home. Reform did not begin at that end. This enterprise needed to wake up and what was required was that business should be sought which did not come without seeking. The Chairman had harped on shipping, shipping, shipping, which came into the dock and sought to be docked. They had to look for business when shipping did not come to them. Such business existed and he emphasized the words of Mr. Phillips and told them to "Wake up,

Wake up." The business had been dwindling since the liquidation, at which time he was told that if certain things were not done the business would dwindle, and the words of the man who said this were coming true.

The CHAIRMAN—We have waked up; in fact we have never been asleep. (Laughter.) If any of our shareholders will tell us where the work is we will get it.

Mr. HOGG—It is not for us to tell you, it is for you to get it.

Mr. KING said that he had a good deal to do with the obtaining of the tender for the Haiho boats and they sent a man there to see the conditions on the bar. They did not get any further facilities or opportunities than the Dock Co.

The CHAIRMAN The meeting decides not to have an expert out from Home. As there were no further remarks the following resolution was put:

Proposed by the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. MARSHALL: That the Directors' report and statement of accounts made up to April 30 last as presented and circulated be adopted and passed, and the Directors be authorized to pay a final dividend at the rate of Tls. 2.50 per share to the shareholders on the register at date.—This was carried.

The following resolutions were then put and carried *non. con.*:

Proposed by Mr. CRADDOCK, seconded by Mr. HUTCHINSON: That the election of Mr. H. J. Craig as Director of the Company be confirmed.

Proposed by Mr. YOUNG, seconded by Mr. ROBERTSON:—That Messrs. D. Landale, J. Prentice and H. A. J. Macray be re-elected Directors of the Company.

Proposed by Mr. HOGG, seconded by Mr. WEIR: That Messrs. J. E. Bingham and F. N. Matthews be elected auditors of the Company for the current year.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Mr. Young, concluded the meeting. — *N.-C. Daily News.*

THE WHITE WAX OF CHINA.

In his work, "Three Years in Western China," Sir A. Hosie takes the opportunity of recapitulating and extending his observations on the production of White Wax in Szechuen, which had already appeared in a supplementary Bluebook published in 1885. As the investigation, of which these observations are the outcome, was specially undertaken at the instance of the Kew authorities, we may be sure that Sir A. Hosie's entomological and botanical identifications are as trustworthy as modern science can make them and that, in chapter XI. of his travels, we have what must be, for all practical purposes, the last word on a subject which has long excited the ardent curiosity of botanists in Europe.

The insect wax of China, it should be premised, is in its way a unique production, being the only variety of wax actually excreted by an animal. Spermaceti, which indeed it resembles greatly in appearance, bears the greatest affinity to it in this respect; but it is found in the head of the sperm whale and is in no sense an excretion. In chemical nomenclature, spermaceti is generally termed a cetylolate of oxide of cetyl, while White Wax is defined as a ceryl cerotate, but this subtle differentiation will hardly appeal to the unscientific mind. It is observed by Sir A. Hosie that the Wax Insect, *Coccus Pe-la*, Westwood, during the thirteen days of its active existence, must derive its nourishment from the sap of the tree on which it lives, but to the unaided eye there is no visible impression on leaves or bark. From the absence of any such mark, the Chinese declare that "the insects live on dew, and that the wax perspires from their bodies." From this it appears tolerably certain that the wax is actually produced from the resources of the insects' internal economy and not manufactured indirectly from vegetable tissue. It cannot, therefore be compared with the only other familiar insect wax, viz., that supplied by the bee which, it is well known, is elaborated from plants or from sugar. Nor, as we have seen, can the wax insect be said to derive the substance from the tree, or trees, which it frequents, and its wax, is therefore, different in kind from the waxes which various trees produce, such as the Wax-palm of Peru, the

Carnahuba palm of Brazil; the Wax-Myrtle of America and South Africa, and the familiar Tallow tree. At the same time, though there is no evidence to show that the Wax Insect secretes its wax either from the *Fraxinus Chinensis* or from the *Ligustrum lucidum*, which form its abode in maturity and youth, it is noteworthy that both these trees belong to the Natural Order Oleaceæ, which includes likewise the oil-producing olive. The coincidence can hardly be entirely fortuitous.—*Foochow Echo.*

CHINESE MOHAMMEDANS.

REPORTED REBELLION.

A Mohammedan rising is reported to have broken out in the province of Shensi. The *N.-C. Daily News* has been shown a letter received in Shanghai last week from Sinanfu, on the envelope of which was the following:—In Kansu famine-threatening, Mohammedans are making desultory attempts at rebellion and Sowerby of Clarke's party cannot sally out from Lanchou. Yeninfu, Suitechou, Mitsunsien and Yulinfu in rebellion and besieged, Special military Taotai sent from Sinanfu in haste.

It would appear from the above message that a rebellion has broken out in the north of the province of Shensi and that attempts are being made by the Mohammedans of Kansu to raise the standard of revolt in the region of the capital of that province.

A telegram to the *Mainichi* dated Peking, June 28, states that in the course of last year Mr. Clarke, President of the American Geographical Association, entered the Chinese North-western provinces with a party of seven Englishmen and Germans on an exploring expedition, having previously obtained certain privileges from the Peking Government through the American Minister. On June 21, one of the members of the party, Mr. Shijinari (?) was killed by natives at Anting, Kansu. Mr. Sowerby, an Englishman, was also attacked, but was rescued on the following day.

We understand that Mr. Clarke who organized the expedition referred to, is an American millionaire and is a member of several of the leading science and art societies of the United States of America. The party, which was well organized and equipped, included Englishmen, Germans and some Indians. One report states that it was an Indian who was killed at Anting. When this trouble was settled the party apparently continued the journey as far as the capital of Kansu, which place they were unable to leave on account of the disturbed condition of the country. It is known that Mr. Sowerby, who is a naturalist, was with the expedition. The report to the effect that he was wounded at Anting is unconfirmed. The four towns mentioned in the postscript of the letter are in the extreme north of Shensi, between the provinces of Kansu and Shansi.

CHINA'S CREDIT.

A BRITISH LOAN OF £50,000,000 OFFERED.

We reproduce the following from the *Peking Daily News*:—

That the credit of the Empire has not suffered any depreciation in consequence of the warnings recently uttered by the correspondent of *The Times* is evident by the fact that among other signs of increasing confidence a proposition has been submitted to the Prince Regent by a group of British financiers, whose representative is now in Peking, offering a loan of fifty million pounds sterling without any specific security beyond the general guarantee of the Government, and on exceptionally favourable terms.

The conditions are that the proceeds of this loan shall be applied to the re-organization of the navy, the construction of railways, the reform of the national currency and the development of mineral resources, industry and agriculture.

We are informed that this proposal is highly appreciated by the Prince Regent and the Government Officials, and that it is seriously occupying their attention at the present time.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 9th June.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

A DEFECTIVE CLAIM.

Sir Henry Berkeley, K. C., instructed by Mr. Dennys and Mr. Atkinson, applied for leave to appeal to the Privy Council in the actions by Hip On Insurance Exchange and Loan Company, Ltd., and the Hongkong and Manila Yuen Shing Exchange and Trading Co., Ltd. Mr. Slade and Mr. Potter, instructed by Mr. E. P. Hett, appeared for the respondents.

Sir Henry Berkeley formally applied on behalf of the Hip On Company against the decision of the Full Court as the sum involved was over £500.

Mr. Slade objected on the ground that the petition was faulty in two material particulars.

Sir Henry Berkeley said these could be amended.

Mr. Slade remarked that they had not been served with copies of the petition and actions had been dismissed for that reason before.

Sir Henry Berkeley expressed regret that copies had not been furnished.

The Chief Justice then pointed out that applicants' title was not good. A name was inserted without designation.

Sir Henry Berkeley—We shall be happy to receive your instructions on that matter—(laughter).

Sir Henry Berkeley then indicated certain amendments which he proposed, to which the Chief Justice replied that he expressed no opinion.

Mr. Slade remarked that a curious position arose—that the appellants were appealing on a question which had not been determined by the Full Court.

Sir Henry Berkeley disagreed with this view.

Mr. Slade—As the petition is framed it is so hopelessly defective it cannot stand.

The Chief Justice indicated that the petition could be amended and served by midday, and if there was no objection to it it would be taken in chambers.

Other defects were referred to and the Chief Justice said leave would be granted to appeal subject to there being no objections.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (PUISNE JUDGE.)

A DOG CASE.

A. W. Hott, chief timekeeper at Shatin of the Kowloon Canton-Railway, claimed from Constable Grant \$225 damages for injuring plaintiff's dog. Mr. Holborow appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. Goldring for the defendant.

Mr. Holborow, in opening, suggested that the motive in the case was malice on the part of defendant. When plaintiff wrote to the defendant saying he had been informed that defendant had shot his dog, defendant wrote a curt reply saying "I did shoot your dog. You are correctly informed."

A Chinese cook in the employ of plaintiff stated that his master's four dogs ran out on June 8th and barked at the defendant's dogs which were following him. Plaintiff's dogs did not leave the compound but defendant pulled out a revolver and fired at one of plaintiff's dogs. His first three shots missed but the fourth hit the dog on the thigh.

His Lordship was informed that the dog was only injured.

Mr. Holborow—The value of the dog is not an element in this case.

His Lordship—The value of the dog is one of the elements.

Mr. Holborow—The value of the dog is not, my lord. The element is the value of the dog to my client.

His Lordship—I did not say it was the element. But it is an element.

The case was adjourned until Monday, his Lordship expressing the hope that it might be settled.

Monday, 12th July.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

LEAVE TO APPEAL TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

In the action between the Imperial Bank of China and Leung Shui Kong, Mr. C. G. Alabaster, who was instructed by Mr. H. J. Gedge (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master), moved on behalf of the plaintiffs (appellants) for leave to appeal to the King-in-Council. Messrs. M. W. Slade and Eldon Potter, instructed by Mr. E. P. Hett (of Messrs. Brutton and Hett) appeared for the respondents.

The motion was allowed.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

CLAIM ON A CONTRACT OF INSURANCE.

The action brought by the Kai Tai firm against the International Lloyd Insurance Co. of Berlin to recover \$5,500 and interest for loss under a contract of insurance on a cargo of beetle nut shipped by the s.s. *Sun On* on July 27th, 1908, at Hongkong for delivery at Samshui and Wuchow, was continued.

Hon. Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. Otto Kong Sing, appeared for the plaintiffs, while defendants were represented by Messrs. M. W. Slade and J. W. Orr, instructed by Mr. H. G. C. Bailey (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master).

Sir Henry Berkeley, in opening, said His Lordship would see from the pleadings what the issue was. His clients alleged, and would prove, that they put in an application on the 27th of last July for an insurance for \$5,500 on certain goods to be shipped by the s.s. *Sun On*. That application was taken from the plaintiffs by a person with whom they had dealt for many years as the agent of the defendants. The application was handed in to Mr. Lau King Hing sometime after three o'clock on the afternoon of the 27th July, was received by him, and was sent to the office of Messrs. Sander, Wieler and Co., where, he would prove, it was received somewhere about four o'clock in the afternoon.

The application was made on a form taken from a counterfoil book which had been supplied to the plaintiffs by the agent, and the plaintiffs had used this book on several previous occasions when insuring with the defendant company. At the time this application was made to Mr. Lau King Hing he was in the sole employ of the defendant company. Plaintiffs had insured with the defendants on previous occasions, one insurance being effected on July 13th, when a similar application was made for the insurance of goods by the steamer *Kwong Tai*, the insurance on that occasion being to the value of \$1,000. During the typhoon which burst over the Colony on July 28th, the *Sun On* sank at her moorings and the goods were lost. On the following day the broker applied at the office of Messrs. Sander, Wieler and Co. for the policy of insurance, but they refused to issue one, stating that the application had not been accepted. No premium had been paid by the plaintiffs, because it was the custom between the parties to settle up at the end of the year. Everything had been done in this case as it had been done in the *Kwong Tai* case. It was stated in the pleadings that no acceptance of an application was made on the part of the company unless the application was signed by the manager, but the defendants could not produce any evidence that any application was ever signed by the manager; the only thing ever signed by the manager was the policy. Plaintiffs were relying upon the acceptance of the application by the broker, who had power to accept. The risk was undertaken when Mr. Lau accepted the application, sent it into the office, and it was allowed to remain there. Counsel submitted that if the *Sun On* had sailed away to Canton, and there had been no typhoon, the defendants would have given his clients the signed policy next morning. Therefore they were not entitled in the circumstances of this case to escape liability, because everything was done by the plaintiffs that had to be done, and it was a matter of convenience to the defen-

dants that they did not issue the policy the same afternoon. The plea now put forward ought not to be allowed to prevail, because he would prove that a policy was actually made out by a clerk in the office on July 28th. The only thing necessary after that was that it should be signed, and the manager refused to sign it because the ship had sunk. He thought the whole question was one of intention, and fortunately for the plaintiffs they could prove the fact that only a few days before, on the 13th July, they had insured in the *Kwong Tai* in an exactly similar way.

Evidence was called and the hearing adjourned.

Tuesday, 13th July.

Mr. A. W. A. Becker, the local manager of Messrs. Sander, Wieler and Co., in cross-examination, said he had never made any arrangements personally with the Kai Tai firm with respect to insurances. All arrangements for policies came through Lau King Hing. The Kai Tai firm did not do a large business with his firm, but they had done business for about four years.

Do you suggest that when the Kai Tai put their goods on the *Sun On* they believed the vessel was going to sink at her moorings?—I don't know.

His Lordship—There is no suggestion.

Sir Henry Berkeley—The whole suggestion is that there is an attempted fraud on the defendant firm.

His Lordship—Not by the plaintiffs.

Sir Henry Berkeley—Very well, my Lord. Now, Mr. Becker, I am going to put this to you, and I don't mean it in any way offensive. I suggest to you that if the *Sun On* had not sunk but sailed on that voyage, no objection would have been made to the policy, if the premium had been paid in due course?—If there had been no typhoon signals up on the 27th I certainly would have accepted the risk.

I put it to you as man to man that if the *Sun On* had not sunk you would have signed the policy?—No. On the morning of the 28th we distinctly refused to sign, not knowing the steamer had sunk.

I suggest that since the 1906 typhoon you were instructed not to receive insurances while the typhoon signals were flying?—I gave those general instructions.

I put it to you as a fact that you never have refused an application sent in by the Kai Tai firm after having kept it a night in the office?—I don't remember ever having done so.

Do you make any suggestion of fraud against the Kai Tai?—No.

His Lordship—Did you ever authorise Lau King Hing to make any arrangements with customers on your behalf?—Never.

After hearing further evidence his Lordship entered judgment for defendants with costs.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (PUISNE JUDGE.)

THE VALUE OF A DOG.

The case was continued in which A. W. Hott, chief timekeeper of the Kowloon-Canton Railway, sued Constable Grant to recover \$225 damages for injuring plaintiff's dog.

Mr. A. Holborow (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Messrs. Goldring, Barlow and Morrell) for the defendant.

Plaintiff said he had a bungalow on the side of the hill opposite the Beacon Hill tunnel. At the time of the shooting, June 8th, he kept four dogs, which were shut up at night, but were free to run about his garden during the day. All witness's dogs wore collars on the morning of the 8th ultimo. He had had the dog which was shot a little over eighteen months. It was of value to him because it was a good watch dog. It was of a very gentle disposition, and was affectionate. When the dog was younger it used to fight, but witness gave it a severe thrashing and broke it of the habit. Should anyone wave a stick at it while it was barking, it would run away. Defendant's bungalow was about five minutes walk from witness, and the former had to pass the garden of witness to get to his house. Defendant had never complained to him about his dogs fighting,

or being a nuisance; neither had Constable Watt or anybody else. Defendant kept dogs which ran loose at night.

What motive do you suggest made the constable shoot your dog?—Having regard to the Chinese evidence, malice.

Why?—Because on the previous Sunday one of my dogs thrashed his.

Where was the constable then?—Riding on the ropeway.

You estimate the damage you sustained at \$225?—Yes.

In cross-examination witness said his solicitor must have misunderstood him when he entered the claim at \$150.

As a matter of fact you are rather fond of a dog fight, aren't you?—No.

Didn't you look on at this dog fight?—I did not.

This dog that used to fight, did you cure it in one thrashing?—No.

Is that the dog that killed Mr. Waite's fox terrier?—Mr. Waite's fox terrier is on the railway now. It was not my dog that attacked it, but a dog belonging to the man next door.

You admit that one of your dogs is a fighting dog?—I don't admit that at all.

What about the black dog?—It does not fight more than any other dog.

This closed the plaintiff's case.

Mr. Goldring told the Court that the story for the defence was a simple one. On this occasion the defendant was going up to his bungalow from the Taipo Road, his boy following him. He had with him two dogs, and these dogs were attacked by Mr. Iott's dogs. When defendant tried to separate the dogs with his stick, one of the plaintiff's attacked him. He pulled out his revolver and fired two shots in the air, and as Mr. Iott's yellow dog still continued to worry his dog the defendant fired another shot on the ground which struck the dog. Mr. Goldring submitted that even if Constable Grant fired deliberately at the dog he was quite justified in doing so. A policeman had a right to destroy any dog that attacked him. Any dog out of the way of his master was a wandering dog.

His Lordship—If that were so it would not be long before all the dogs in the Colony were destroyed.

Defendant told the Court that on June 8th he was walking along the Taipo Road with two dogs, one a half bull terrier and the other a half spaniel. As witness was passing the plaintiff's bungalow two dogs rushed out and attacked his dog. He tried to separate them, but as he could not he pulled out his revolver and fired two shots in the air. All the dogs ran away except the yellow one, which continued to attack his dog. When witness endeavoured to pull it off the dog attempted to bite him, so he fired a shot on the ground close to the dog, and it must have been the ricochet which struck him. The dog ran away howling, and the Chinese boys, hearing it, came out of the house.

In cross-examination witness said he would consider himself entitled to shoot a dog if it attacked him. He was not firing for the benefit of the public, because the dog was a fierce dog. His servant was about two yards away when he fired the shots. Witness could not say whether his bull terrier could overcome the yellow dog, and he did not see the necessity of keeping his dog on a string. He shot plaintiff's dog by accident.

Couldn't you have left a note for the plaintiff explaining the accident?—I could have done, but he left a note with me instead.

Didn't you think it was due to the man to give him an explanation?—Not after the note he sent to me.

Police Sergeant Floyd deposed to knowing plaintiff's yellow dog. Mr. Iott's dogs rushed out at him on May 24th, but ran away when he threw stones at them.

Mr. Holborow informed the Court that the dog was not present, but he could have produced it if formally requested to do so.

His Lordship thought he had plainly intimated his opinion. It was for the plaintiff to prove the dog's value.

Mr. Holborow said his Lordship had already heard the dog was a half-breed. There was nothing to be gained by bringing the animal into Court.

His Lordship—Having regard to the fact that the dog is of no particular breed, your claim of something like £30 seems a preposterous one.

Mr. Holborow said it was not necessary to allege the actual marketable value of the dog.

Constable Watt testified to receiving a complaint from a Chinese about plaintiff's dog, and speaking to the plaintiff about the matter.

His Lordship said there was no doubt it was common ground that the defendant did fire the shot which wounded the plaintiff's dog, but the question was, under what circumstances. Plaintiff's case was outlined in the evidence of his two witnesses, who said his dogs were ranging up and down his garden, and that the defendant, without any provocation, fired four shots, the fourth of which wounded the dog. His Lordship did not believe that the dogs did not go out of the garden, because it was absolutely unnatural. Anyone who knew anything about dogs knew how ready they were for a fight. Then the question was whether the defendant could say he fired the shot to protect himself, and his Lordship could not say that he did. As to the shots fired, the constable said he fired into the air, and his Lordship thought this was quite likely. It was an unpleasant thing to interfere when a lot of dogs were fighting and the Judge was inclined to find that the defendant did fire two shots in the air. No man would fire a shot when another dog was struggling with his own, because he might hit his own dog, and the plaintiff's dog could not have been running towards the constable, because it was hit in the hind quarters. His Lordship was inclined to think that the defendant intended to frighten the dog, although there was no doubt that he was aggravated, and there was no doubt that he was sore. With regard to the question of damages, the dog appeared to be rather a nondescript animal with an unknown father; still the plaintiff was rather attached to it. It was a great pity that the defendant did not give some apology in writing, as the case might then have been settled. Plaintiff was entitled to some compensation, and his Lordship would allow him \$15 and costs.

Wednesday, July 14th.

A BROKEN AGREEMENT.

Jakkaria 'Ilimahmed sued Omar C. Moosa to recover \$274.18 due in respect of salary and travelling expenses under an agreement of service whereby the plaintiff was engaged by the defendant for a term of three years from September 17th, 1906. The salary had not been paid, and the defendant was dismissed.

Defendant paid \$61.82 into Court in satisfaction of balance of the wages, and counter-claimed \$540 for damages sustained by plaintiff's breach of contract.

Mr. Reader Harris (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) represented the plaintiff, and Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro (of Messrs. Almada and Smith) appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Harris, in opening, said this was an action on a service agreement. The plaintiff was engaged by the defendant for a term of three years, and was dismissed before the end of his agreement with certain wages owing. Under the agreement defendant was to pay the cost of plaintiff's journey from Bombay, and should he dismiss him before the termination of his agreement he was to pay his return and part of his salary. After the dismissal of plaintiff on April 5th he asked for his salary, and was advised to return next day. He went back continually after that, and was always put off.

His Lordship—Does this agreement expire by effluxion of time, or is it terminated?

Mr. Harris—No, the defendant put an end to the agreement.

Mr. Almada—That is the plaintiff's case. We deny it.

Mr. Harris said the plaintiff went to Macao on the 18th ult. to have an interview with J. C. Moosa, the brother of the defendant. This Mr. Moosa made certain offers, which plaintiff subsequently declined.

Plaintiff was then called to the witness stand, but objected to the Court interpreter on the ground that he was a friend of the defendant. His Lordship upheld the objection, and after a short discussion it was agreed that Mr. Mirza, the Puisne Judge's clerk, should interpret.

Plaintiff then told the Court that he was discharged for refusing to write an apology because he returned home late one night. Defendant's partner told the defendant he ought

to dismiss plaintiff if he did not apologise. Defendant subsequently gave him formal notice of dismissal, and witness received five months' salary. He declined to accept this in full settlement, so defendant told him to go to No. 4, Old Bailey next evening and they would discuss the matter there. Witness went to No. 4, and found the defendant with a Miss Alice Caroline. Defendant asked him what he intended to do, and witness said if he did not get all his money he intended to take out a summons. The American girl asked him why he wanted to summons the defendant. She said he was "hard up," and advised plaintiff to wait. When he went to Macao J. C. Moosa asked him to work there, but he refused.

In cross-examination witness denied being insolent to Olarikia (one of the partners), and said it was not on that account that he was asked to apologise. Plaintiff did not tell the defendant that if he went to Macao his (the defendant's) brother would put him in jail. Between April 6th and 18th he did not go to defendant's shop, and was not asked to complete his contract at Macao.

This closed the case for the plaintiff.

Defendant said he engaged the plaintiff through an agent in Bombay. Up to 30th October last he (witness) had carried on business on his own account; since he had formed a partnership. The reason of the complaint preferred against the plaintiff was because, when told by another partner that he had to be in at ten o'clock at night, he said he had only one master, and would not take orders from others. On the following night, plaintiff stayed out all night. When complaint was made to witness, he called the plaintiff before him, said they did not want an insolent assistant, and paid him off. Then he told plaintiff in a friendly way that he could go to Macao to finish his agreement. Plaintiff, however, declined, saying that defendant's brother would lock him up. Witness told him that if he did not go he would enforce the agreement. In consequence of defendant's refusal he had to engage another assistant. He never at any time told the plaintiff to meet him at No. 4, Old Bailey.

Cross-examined—What right had your partners to give orders to the plaintiff?—They had the right.

Did they take over the service agreements?—Yes.

What steps did you take to enforce the agreement?—I was waiting to see what steps he would take. I think he would have gone if there had not been an instigator.

Do you know Miss Alice Caroline?—I don't know her at all.

Ever heard of her?—Never.

You've never been in No. 4, Old Bailey?—Not as far as I remember. I always send my assistants to take goods out.

Have you ever been there when you don't want to take goods?—No.

Mr. Harris said he wished to drop his claim on the agreement, and asked his Lordship's permission to amend the writ.

His Lordship—The case you are succeeding on is not the case the defendant had to meet. Now you say there is no agreement.

Mr. Harris—It is only the evidence we have heard in the witness box that told me there was no agreement.

His Lordship—Your client would know that.

Mr. Harris—He did not.

His Lordship—If the agreement has gone,

then the counter-claim fails with costs.

Mr. Almada—The plaintiff in this action ought to be non-suited with costs, and no judgment ought to be given on the counter-claim. The plaintiff stood all along on the agreement. I stood my counter-claim on the agreement, and I am entitled to judgment on the counter-claim.

His Lordship—If the agreement stands.

Mr. Almada—Yes, and to such damage as your Lordship thinks I am entitled to.

His Lordship reserved judgment.

Thursday, July 15th.

CLAIM FOR MONEY LENT.

Action was brought by Li Fuk Hing against Li Kam Tong, otherwise Mung Sin Wan, to recover \$300, amount due under a deposit note dated December 27th.

Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro (of Messrs. Almada and Smith) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Reader Harris (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) represented the defendant.

Mr. Almada, in outlining the facts, said the plaintiff first made the acquaintance of the defendant when the latter was the owner of a stall in the Central Market. A few days later Mung Sui Wan told plaintiff that he was Li Kam and that he was the registered holder of the stall. Plaintiff did not believe it until defendant showed him his photograph, and then he advanced him \$300, for which he received a receipt signed by Li Kam Fong and Mung Sin Wan. Plaintiff had demanded repayment several times, but had not been repaid. Sometime in the month of June the register was altered, and another man's name was substituted.

His Lordship (to Mr. Harris)—Where is your client?

Mr. Harris—My client is there (pointing to the body of the Court and beckoning him to stand up). He is nine years old.

A small boy arose and came forward.

His Lordship—Infancy is no defence in the Summary Court.

Evidence was then called, and the case for the plaintiff closed.

Mr. Harris presumed that his friend's suggestion was that Li Kam Tong, or his client, was a person who had a great affection for fighting actions, and having found that a writ was issued, he went up to the Registrar-General's, said his name was Li Kam Tong, and that he wanted to fight this action.

After hearing the evidence His Lordship entered judgment for the plaintiff against Li Kam Tong, but not against the boy who appeared as defendant.

Friday, July 16th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. H. H. J.
(PUISNE JUDGE).

AN ABSENT DEFENDANT.

The case was called on in which Mr. P. W. Goldring claimed from Mr. E. G. Jordan \$1,000 for rent.

Plaintiff appeared in person, and defendant was represented by Mr. Davidson (of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings).

Mr. Goldring informed the Court that the defendant had left the Colony.

Mr. Davidson said he did not know that he had.

Mr. Goldring—He has. Everybody knows it. I have waited for months. My friend cannot have instructions, because the defendant has left the Colony.

Mr. Davidson—My friend told me a few days ago that the defendant had left, but I do not know that he has.

His Lordship—I will fix the case for to-morrow morning (to-day). If the man is found to be in the Colony, I can then fix another day.

Mr. Davidson—I cannot say whether he is here. He was in hospital, but since his discharge it has not been necessary for me to take any instructions from him.

His Lordship—You knew this case was in to-day's list, and you come here without instructions. I must take the case to-morrow.

Mr. Davidson—For all I know his absence may be temporary.

His Lordship—If he was leaving the Colony he should have communicated with his solicitor. I can fix a day for the hearing later if I can be satisfied to-morrow that he will be here next week.

Mr. Davidson - It is for my friend to convince you that he had left.

Mr. Goldring—I can obtain any number of affidavits to that effect.

His Lordship—This is not a fresh case, and the plaintiff does not consent to an adjournment. If Mr. Davidson had not appeared I would have asked plaintiff to prove the case, and then given judgment. If defendant's solicitor says the defendant is here I will give him a day, if not, I will fix the hearing for to-morrow. His Lordship informed Mr. Davidson that if he found defendant was in the Colony he could give notice to Mr. Goldring.

AN EMIGRATION CASE.

Judgment was delivered in the action brought by Tam Yuen against Tam Hun and Hip Sing Lung claiming \$651, balance of money due on a promissory note.

Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro (of Messrs. Almada and Smith) represented the plaintiff, and Mr. Davidson (of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings) appeared for the defendant.

His Lordship said—I can state the facts of this case very shortly as follows: The plaintiff sues to recover \$651, being balance due on a promissory note for \$731 which purports to have been given by the defendant in respect of money lent. The plaintiff gave in evidence very circumstantial details of the alleged loan transaction. The defence is, *inter alia*, that there was no money lent but that the instrument was given to secure the payment of a balance owing in respect of contracts to take two Chinese into the United States of America. It is urged that this was an agreement for the performance of an act which involved the violation of the law of a friendly State, and was therefore an illegal, or at any rate an invalid contract, unenforceable at law and in respect of which no liability could accrue. I may say at once that I do not accept the plaintiff's story, and that I do believe that of the defendant, at any rate with respect to the alleged consideration. I must then consider the adequacy of this defence. The Court has, of course, no judicial knowledge of the law of a foreign country. But evidence was given by the gentleman performing the duties of Consul-General of the United States in this Colony, which satisfied me that under the statutes dealing with immigration into the United States of America, Chinese, with the exception of members of certain special classes, are, forbidden to enter the country. Breach of the law is punishable with fine and imprisonment. Now on the evidence I find that the men in respect of whom these agreements were entered into were not members of any excepted class, that they could only enter the United States in breach of the provisions of Immigration Law, and that it was fully understood by all parties to the agreement that this was the case. I am led to this conclusion by, *inter alia*, the language of the documents which were put in, and by the very high price, \$1,050 a head to be paid for passage money for men who were not going first class. Are then these contracts either illegal or invalid by the law of this Colony? Now the contracts were entered into in Hongkong. Payment was to be made partly in the Colony and partly in America. The performance of the contract by the plaintiff took place in America when the emigrants were landed there. There is, of course, nothing in our law to forbid Chinese landing in America or anywhere else. It seems quite clear therefore, that these contracts are not illegal by the law of Hongkong. Are they then invalid? Now, the law on the subject is enunciated by Mr. Dicey, *Conflict of Laws*, page 553, rule 184, as follows:—"The essential validity of a contract is, subject to the exceptions hereinafter mentioned, governed indirectly by the proper law of the contract." I will assume that the proper law here is the law of Hongkong. Mr. Dicey next gives certain exceptions to the general rule formulated above. The third exception is as follows:—"A contract, whether lawful by its proper law or not, is in general invalid insofar as (1) the performance of it is unlawful by the law of *lex loci solutionis*; or (2) the contract forms part of a transaction which is unlawful by the law of the country where the transaction is to take place." It is suggested by the learned author that probably this exception does not apply to any contract made with a view to the violation of the revenue laws of a country not forming part of the British Dominions. But this suggestion need not be considered here as it is perfectly clear that the laws of the United States with regard to the immigration of Chinese are not in any sense revenue laws. Now, the contract being to land persons in a country where the laws of that country forbid them to be landed, it seems clear that the case falls within Mr. Dicey's third exception, and that this is an invalid contract in Hongkong. That is to say that the law cannot be invoked to enforce it, nor, on the other hand, could damages be claimed in our courts for a breach of it. Similarly, although one party has performed his part, he cannot sue to recover the consideration

agreed to be paid. There is no obligation which the law will recognise, and no consideration to found liability; no consideration therefore for the instrument sued on. I must give judgment for the first defendant with costs.

A TIMELY DISCOVERY.

PIRATES ARRESTED.

The West Point police made a discovery on Saturday which doubtless resulted in the miscarriage of a projected scheme of piracy and possibly murder in the harbour. Acting on information received, Inspector Robertson despatched a party of police to the house No. 37, Belcher Street, where they arrested seven men, five of whom had knives in their possession. The other two tried to escape. In the house the police came across a complete outfit for carrying out piracy and possibly murder. There were swords, fighting irons, knives, and the collection included a packet of pepper, which pirates often carry to throw in the eyes of their victims, gags with which to stop their mouths, and wire with which to tie their queues together, while there were also chisels with which to open boxes. The information given to the police was that the men contemplated an attack on the Taiping junk, a large trading junk which carries passengers and general cargo between Taiping and Hongkong. It was known that the boatswain carried a revolver, and it had been arranged that one of the men who knew the boatswain should go on board first and knock him down with an iron and take possession of the firearm. However, the project did not materialise, and the seven men were brought before Mr. Hazeland at the Magistracy on July 12 on a charge of being in unlawful possession of arms. His Worship imposed the maximum penalty, a fine of \$250, or three months' imprisonment.

CLEVER CAPTURE OF A THIEF.

Mrs. Main, of Nos. 1 and 2, Knutsford Terrace, Kowloon, has of late been missing many articles from her clothes lines. As the thief has had a long run of success, notwithstanding the watchmen deputed to effect his capture, Mrs. Main conceived the excellent idea of attaching bells to the end of the clothes lines. These were so arranged that the removal of any article of clothing from the line would cause the bells to ring. After the trap had been duly set, it was not long before the bells began to clang. The sound awakened the houseboys to activity, and they immediately dashed to the front and rear entrances to the building, while others searched the grounds. The thief was discovered in the basement of the house, and on being charged before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy yesterday was sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment.

A SOLDIER'S SUICIDE.

On Friday morning a private at Murray Barracks committed suicide by shooting himself with a rifle. About ten minutes to six Private James Hadsley, of D. Company, the Buffs, after having had a wash came along to the west gate of the Barracks, where the guard were posted, and picking up a rifle placed it to his mouth and pulled the trigger. Death was of course instantaneous, the bullet coming out at the back of his head. Deceased, who was 34 years of age and a native of Wimbledon, is believed to have brooded over family troubles at home. He was unmarried.

THE PRATAS.

The Japanese cruiser *Akashi* left Hongkong on Saturday for the Pratas having on board Mr. Segawa, the Japanese Consul at Canton, and Mr. Nishizawa, the owner of the guano works in the islands, for the purpose of making a valuation of the works there and completing arrangements for the Japanese interests being taken over by the Chinese.

TYPHOON TOPICS.

On July 14 Hongkong did little more than think and talk of typhoons. That the warning signals should have been hoisted on Tuesday evening, so soon after the passing of the previous typhoon which had been hanging round our vicinity for several days, was of course no surprise, but the excitement which the warning occasions was very apparent yesterday morning. By that time the harbour was practically clear of all the smaller craft. The sampans and junks had early sought shelter and most of the launches had also found a place of safety. Those that did stay behind were stripped of their awnings and were prepared for the fierce squalls that blew during the forenoon. The ships of war and the few steamers that anchored in the harbour had all steam up and were ready for the worst.

About four or five o'clock yesterday morning the wind had increased in force and there were indications of the near approach of a typhoon. Heavy showers of rain preceded the violent gusts, and the weatherwise made all arrangements against the dread visitor, which it was expected would be here in the course of the day.

However, these prognostications were not fulfilled. Though the white horses came dashing through the Lyeemoon Pass, and violent squalls created an uneasy feeling that they were but the harbingers of the typhoon, the real storm passed the Colony. Shortly before noon the signals were altered showing that the typhoon had changed direction and was then to the south of the Colony. Gradually the gusts abated, the heavy showers became less frequent, and by three o'clock a calm had followed which gave rise to the hope that before nightfall the signals would be taken down and Hongkong could sleep in the knowledge that once more we had escaped the terrible visitant.

But hope fell like the barometer. Between five and six o'clock the squalls started afresh, being followed by heavy showers of rain. A red flag fluttered from the wharves of the Star Ferry Co., while the notice boards on either side of the harbour warned passengers that unless the weather abated the ferries would cease to run after eight o'clock. The "green, red green" signal, indicating that a typhoon was within 300 miles of the Colony, was showing at a late hour last night.

Naturally the fear of the typhoon interfered very materially with business on the water. The work of loading and discharging could not be carried on in the absence of lighters, and even the C. P. R. steamer *Monteagle* experienced a little delay in getting her passengers on board. Both the German mail and the P. and O. intermediate steamer *Syria*, which came in during the morning, escaped the typhoon, but they did not run any risk of being fouled by drifting vessels in the harbour and instead of going to the wharf they proceeded to Kowloon Bay where they sheltered for a time.

FRENCH NATIONAL FETE.

The French tricolour, which was much in evidence on July 14, drooping in showers of rain or fluttering in typhoon squalls, served to remind us that the day was the great French holiday. French firms in the Colony were closed to business, and local citizens of La Belle France fittingly celebrated the occasion. The usual reception by M. Gaston Liebert, the Consul for France, was held at his residence, 13, Peak Road, where he received members of the French community between 9.30 and 11 a.m., and British officials and foreign colleagues between 11 and 12.30 p.m. Captain Mitchell-Taylor called to offer the congratulations of H.E. the Governor, while there were many official callers and numerous visits from prominent civilian residents. From four o'clock in the afternoon until seven, M. Liebert was "at home" to all callers, but the expectations of a typhoon detained many who otherwise would have been pleased to attend.

The assets and liabilities of Holliday, Wise and Co., in the Philippines have been taken over by Messrs. Wise and Co., Ltd., and Mr. R. E. Humphreys and Mr. L. Dyson have been authorised to sign for the firm.

SANITATION IN MANILA.

REPORT BY THE EX-GOVERNOR GENERAL.

In a report made to the secretary of war on Philippine affairs Governor General James F. Smith has the following to say in regard to sanitary conditions in the city of Manila:

Lately there has been considerable disposition to make comparison between the city of Manila and the modern well regulated cities of the United States. Surprise is expressed that the cleaning of the esteros, the draining of certain large districts, and the general sanitation of the city has not been accomplished. True, there is considerable sanitary work to be done in Manila, but what seems to be forgotten is that the same may be said of any large city of the world more than 50 years old.

What seems to be forgotten is that Manila covers an area of more than 12 square miles, most of it only a few feet above tide water, that the city is some centuries old, and that its drainage, the raising of its level, and the correction of its sanitary defects can hardly be accomplished between two days. The American government has been in the Philippines a little more than ten years, some three of which were devoted to warfare and the suppression of public disorder.

Before damning the government because everything has not been done, it might be advisable to stop a moment and compare the condition of Manila on August 13, 1898, with its condition of June 30, 1908. Prior to American occupation Manila never had a sewer system, never had a drainage system, never had an adequate supply of potable water, nor any supply, until Carriedo, a noble Spaniard, furnished a means to construct the water system now in use.

From the time that Manila was a village—and that was a long time ago—until the year 1902, the filth and nastiness of the strong material districts found their way into the moat or into sluggish esteros that meander through the city. From time immemorial till some six years ago the filth of the nipa districts, which cover a large area, was either deposited under the dwellings or carelessly distributed over the neighboring landscape.

As a temporary means of relief from these conditions public midden sheds were constructed in 75 different localities and the pail system was established. No one ever considered these measures as anything but temporary, and everyone knows, or should know, that no adequate or permanent relief can be expected until a plentiful supply of fresh water is brought to every door and a proper sewer and drainage system has been furnished to Manila.

Every measure that has been undertaken for the protection of the health of the people and to secure them against contagious diseases has been bitterly fought, opposed and resisted by those for whose benefit the measures were primarily intended. Every medical man who has been charged with responsibility for the public health has been compelled to walk unshod to his goal over the thorny road of criticism, denunciation and calumny. No health ordinance meant to protect the people from disease and contagion has been proposed, but that a concerted attempt to emasculate and destroy it has been initiated by the very people most to be advantaged by its passage.

Even as late as the last session of the Philippine legislature a determined effort was made to do away with the health districts of the city of Manila and to reduce the number of medical men who are charged with the duty of remedying as far as possible, insanitary conditions and unsanitary methods of living.

Every endeavor to oblige the property owner to tear down the squalid habitations—hovels used as habitations for the poor—and to erect decent buildings of light material for his tenants has been stubbornly resisted and made the subject of denunciation by the agitator and mountebank, who found therein a veritable mint of political capital.

Sanitary measures, sanitary information, regulations for the suppression of epidemics, respected throughout the scientific world as founded on sound sense and right reason, have been combatted, opposed, and denounced as foolish in the Philippines.

"The demagogue and conscienceless politician have on countless occasions demanded the resignations of the director of health and the secretary of the interior when they sought to enforce, well organized and established sanitary measures. And now they are no less vigorous in joining in the outcry because cholera has not been suppressed in a few days—a disease which has existed in the Philippines and in the city of Manila, as shown by the records, since the year 1817—a disease, by the way, whose existence was frequently denied, by these very same demagogues and political hacks, in the teeth of the declaration of able doctors and able scientists, respected for their learning and attainments everywhere except in the Philippines."

THE IMPENDING INVASION OF TOURISTS.

A LARGER STEAMER CHARTERED.

Apparently the number of persons who have signified their desire to join Mr. Frank C. C. Clark's "Around the World" cruise has been so great that the fine new Hamburg-America Liner *Cleveland* (18,000 tons) has been substituted for the s.s. *Arabic*, as she is so much more commodious, can carry with comfort and luxury 750 first-class passengers, is fitted up with gymnasium, lifts, and all the latest improvements and is described as the finest ship afloat for cruising.

Mr. William Farmer, proprietor of the Macao and Canton Hotels, has been appointed sole agent for the party in Hongkong, Canton and Macao.

Arrangements have already been completed in Hongkong with the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Company to run special steamers from alongside the *Cleveland* direct to Canton; with the Peak Tramway Company to run special cars to the Peak during the slack hours in the morning and afternoon, so as not to interfere with the regular local traffic, and with the Electric Tramway Company to provide "Private cars for a tour round the lower levels, including the Happy Valley, the Racecourse and Shau-ki-wan. A guide or conductor will accompany each car, to point out the different places of interest en route.

Arrangements have been made with the Hongkong Hotel Company to provide tiffin each day, and that Hotel will be made the headquarters of the party during their stay. All the other Hotels will be undoubtedly filled up as well, as most of the tourists will prefer to sleep on shore, rather than on the ship. Ample previous notice will be given to Mr. Farmer as to what Hotel accommodation will be required in Hongkong, and he will make arrangements accordingly.

In Canton, Mr. Harry Haynes, of the Victoria Hotel, is already busy making all arrangements for their sight-seeing, and it need only be mentioned that as over one thousand chair coolies will be required at one time, to take each section round the City each day, to show that his task is by no means an easy one. One hundred will be accommodated at the Victoria Hotel each night, while the others will return to Hongkong. Mr. Haynes' well-known ability in the catering line is an assurance that they will be well looked after.

In Macao they will be in the hands of Mr. H. R. Beaurepaire, of the Macao Hotel.

The *Cleveland* will leave New York on October 16th, proceeding to Madeira, Gibraltar, Naples, Suez Canal, Bombay, Colombo, Calcutta, Rangoon, Singapore, Batavia, Borneo, Manila, and is due to reach Hongkong on Thursday, December 23rd, at 1 p.m., and to leave about Sunday, December 26th, at 11 a.m. From here the steamer will go direct to Japan, where the party will spend fifteen days; thence they will go to Honolulu and San Francisco and take the overland route to New York, where the party is due on February 5th.

The *Cleveland* on that date will leave San Francisco with another party which is scheduled to reach Hongkong on March 15th.

The cost of the tour, lasting nearly four months, is given as (gold) "\$650 and up."

LIKIN AT CHINKIANG.

THE SYSTEM RIDDLED WITH ILLEGALITY AND FRAUD.

Mr. Fitzpious, the British Consul at Chinkiang, has the following illuminating comments in his Report under the heading "Likin":—

"A few remarks with regard to this perennial burden on all trade may not be out of place. As illustrating to a small extent the multiplication of effects from this one cause, I have pleasure in quoting the following luminous remarks of my Hsüchoufu correspondent, the Rev. T. B. Grafton:—"The one great commercial need of this end of the province is the dredging of the Grand Canal and the abolition of the stores of custom-houses along its borders. Could this be accomplished, the flood of orders for foreign goods would make the wharves at Chinkiang a sight to behold. As it is, in consequence of likin exactions, kerosene costs 1 dol. 10 c. more per case of 65 lbs. at Hsüchoufu than at Chinkiang. Lumber, both native and foreign, has become almost impossible to get. I have now (October 21) on the road from Chinkiang two boat-loads of lumber that were started about September 21, and have as yet heard nothing of them, though they should have arrived weeks ago. This district has always depended on southern pine poles for house roof beams, which now can be brought up only with the greatest difficulty and expense. This also compels the use for building purposes of what is ordinarily sold for stove wood, thus demoralising the fuel markets and causing great distress to the poor. It also affects the price and supply of fuel used for burning bricks; hence bricks are exorbitantly high with few buyers."

The following illustration will show that the whole system, inconsistent even with its own low standard, is riddled with illegality and fraud, calculated to fill the pockets of individuals to the detriment of the revenues of the Empire.

Under the regulations governing transit cargo, inspection should take place at each barrier, and if the goods are found to correspond with the description given in the transit pass, they should be at once released without any payment asked or given. But, in the busy season, when much cargo is passing inwards and outwards, the strict enforcement of these regulations would entail congestion of traffic and consequent delay. As a consequence a practice has grown up, which is a source of revenue to the likin officers and a convenience to merchants, while at the same time it reduces the transit trade regulations to a farce. When cargo is approaching a barrier, the person in charge of it goes ahead of it to the barrier, presents his passes for examination, and pays an illegal fee called "pass inspection fee," whereupon the officer in charge of the barrier stamps the passes, and when the goods arrive they are passed through without any inspection whatever. Many so-called detention cases arise out of a refusal, on the part of persons who have gone ahead of their cargo to get their passes stamped, to pay the "pass inspection fee," whereupon the likin station official falls back on the letter of the regulations and insists upon examination. This is represented to the Consul concerned as a detention, the Consul communicates with the Chinese authorities and is informed in due course that there was no detention beyond that necessary for the examination of the goods as the regulations prescribe. To avoid the delay attendant on this routine, the system of paying a "pass inspection fee" has become a regular custom, and as long as the normal rate of extortion is adhered to, no complaints are made.

There seems to be no remedy for these abuses but the abolition of likin altogether. Suggestions made in the past that transit cargo inwards should be put under hatches sealed by the customs and be allowed to go through to destination without being examined so long as the seals are found to be intact, have remained barren of result. Apart from official opposition, the build of the boats is a difficulty. They have no hatches properly so-called, but are divided into compartments which are covered over with the narrow transverse boards forming the deck of the boat.

Though the transit trade is liable to exactions of this kind, it is still at such an advantage as compared with trade carried on under the native likin system with its incalculable uncertainties and vexations, that it is actually found advantageous to export Chinese medicines, in which there is a large trade, to Hongkong, so that they may be brought back as foreign goods and be distributed under the transit pass system.

THE CALL OF THE SHROFF.

Some correspondence has been proceeding in the *N.-C. Daily News* on this interesting subject. One correspondent writes:—

There are five classes of people the business houses of Shanghai have to deal with, viz.:—

- 1.—Those who pay promptly.
- 2.—Those who do so after allowing the account to become, say, three or four months old, more from sheer habit than anything else.
- 3.—Those who save their money in order to purchase land or shares, allowing their creditors to wait till it is convenient to pay them, being totally indifferent as to the loss of interest incurred, for although the amount may be paltry, they forget that it may be one of a thousand similar accounts, the aggregate being quite a large sum.
- 4.—Those who put off the "evil day" as long as possible.
- 5.—Those who do not intend to pay at all, unless pressure is brought to bear upon them.

Fortunately, the last class is a small one, but it exists, all the same. If people would only carry out the "golden rule," business would be infinitely easier; in many instance prices would be less, and there would be no need for the usual "Provision for bad and doubtful debts."

People who talk about the "exorbitant prices" charged by the retail stores in Shanghai, with consequent "enormous profits" should go into business for themselves; then they would soon have tales upon tails.

JAPANESE VOLCANOES.

Herr Immanuel Friedlaender recently delivered a lecture in Yokohama on Japanese volcanoes, in the course of which he said that the total number of Japanese volcanoes could not be stated exactly, as it will always remain more or less a matter of arbitrary opinion which of the many mountains of volcanic material shall be reckoned as independent volcanoes and which not. The geological maps of Japan, however, give a good basis for calculation, and upon them Japanese geologists have marked 165 independent volcanoes. He arranged the volcanoes of Japan in the following great zones:—

1. The Kurile zone, stretching from Kamchatka along the Kurile Islands to Hokkaido.
2. A series of smaller zones which run parallel to the northern axis of Japan.
3. The Hakusan and Aso zone, running parallel to the South Japan axis.
4. The Fuji zone, which runs from the boundary between North and South Japan southward to the Ladrone Islands.
5. The Kirishima zone, which extends from Kyushu on the west of the curve of the Loochoos nearly as far as Formosa.

The Japanese volcanic zones stand in the closest connection with the geological building-up of the country. For this reason, and also from their great size, they refute the view often expressed in recent years that volcanoes are merely local phenomena of subordinate importance. The length of the Hawaiian volcanic chain is, roughly, 1,700 miles and the Fuji chain is of about the same length.

TAXATION OF FOREIGNERS IN KOREA.

The notification announcing the imposition of three kinds of taxes on foreign residents in Korea is reported to be in the course of translation into different languages at the Residency-General and will shortly be published. The departure has its precedent in Egypt and not only is its legality recognized by foreign Consuls, but not a few foreign missionaries and others residing in the interior are stated to have offered to pay them. Under the circumstance, it is hoped that the matter will be very smoothly carried out.—*Seoul Press*.

THE MANILA HOTEL PROJECT.

The promoters of the new hotel for Manila have issued a statement on the subject from which we extract the following:—

To purchase the site, erect and equip the hotel and provide a working capital, will require an investment of P.900,000. An agreement has been entered into with the Insular Government whereby the latter will purchase at par P.600,000.00 of the bonds of the Company redeemable within twenty-two years and bearing interest at the very reasonable rate of four per cent. per annum upon condition that the company place the remaining P.300,000.00 by the sale of its stock, and upon the further condition that the Company shall not pay dividends on its stock in excess of ten per cent per annum, until the bonds are redeemed. A sinking fund is provided for whereby the bonds will be steadily retired until, at the end of 22 years the stockholders, for their original investment of P.300,000.00 will own, free of encumbrance, a property worth P.900,000.00, without taking into account the increase in value of the real estate and the dividends that will have been distributed in the meantime.

The P.300,000.00 of stock has already been applied for and underwritten, but the Directors appreciate that this is a popular enterprise and have decided to offer to the public of Manila and the Philippine Islands until the fifteenth day of August, 1909, P.200,000.00 of the stock at par. The Government, as well as the Board of Directors, wishes that this stock be distributed as widely as possible among all classes of citizens, and for this reason all subscriptions, however small, will be welcome. The shares are for P100.00 each and may be paid for in installments of P.20.00 per share, when the subscription is accepted by the Company, and P.10.00 per month thereafter until fully paid. The subscriber for a single share will have all the privileges and the same consideration that will be accorded to the purchaser of a hundred.

The Board of Directors consists of Messrs. M. F. Loewenstein, Castle Bros. Wolf and Sons; H. T. Fox, of Smith, Bell and Company, Francisco Ortigas, of Ortigas and Fischer, Walter E. Olsen, of W. E. Olsen and Company, Carlos de las Heras of the "Tabacalera," Mauro Prieto of the "Germinal," Otto Ranfft, of Germann and Company, P. G. Eastwick, of the International Banking Corporation and Edward B. Bruce, of Bruce and Lawrence. Mr. Loewenstein is President of the Company, and Mr. Eastwick its Treasurer.

TIENTSIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

There was a large attendance of members at the special meeting of the Tientsin Chamber of Commerce on June 18, to consider what further action should be taken with regard to the debased sycee circulating in Tientsin. Mr. Southcott was in the chair, and some sixty members attended.

The Chairman made a long speech pointing out the serious impasse that had been brought about by the circulation of debased sycee. He stated that it was essential that the debased sycee should be recalled, re-melted and replaced with sycee of the established fineness of .992, and that steps should be taken to maintain the standard of sycee at the proper fineness.

A leading banker pointed out that at any moment the banks might be forced to say they could no longer finance the trade of the port, as the debased sycee had been demonetized by proclamation by the Haikuantao and by notifications of the Commissioner of Customs, and nothing had taken its place.

In the discussion that ensued, it was decided to adjourn the meeting for two months, and if before that date no progress had been made to recall and remelt the debased sycee and no steps had been taken to control and maintain the sycee at the standard fineness of .992, the members of the Chamber would consider taking very serious steps [which were proposed and discussed at the meeting] in order to secure the required control and maintenance being established.

Resolutions were adopted embodying the above, and protesting against the inaction of the Chinese authorities.

SHIPPING NOTES.

Last week there was launched from the Kiangnan Dock and Engineering Works, Shanghai, a steam tug, named the *Chutung*, which was constructed by Messrs. J. I. Thornycroft & Co., of Southampton, and sent out in sections, to the order of the Szechuan Steam Navigation Company. The *N.-C. Daily News* states that the *Chutung* is specially designed for navigation above Ichang, and is stated to be the result of many years' experience of Captain Plant, who designed her, and will take charge of her when she has completed her trials. Her engines and boiler, which develop 700 i.h.p., are of the Thornycroft type, similar to those used by the Admiralty and are expected to give her a speed of fifteen knots on the measured mile. This is at least two knots more than the speed of any other vessel that has steamed through the rapids. She has two propellers, working in hollows in the stern, fitted with "Yarrow" patent flaps, which can be adjusted to suit the trim of the vessel under all conditions of draught. Besides powerful propelling engines, a steam capstan is fitted forward for use when ascending the rapids, as it is intended that the *Chutung* shall haul herself past the difficult points by a steel cable. There is complete accommodation for the captain and crew, and a feature of the vessel is the arrangement of bollards on either side, to enable her to fasten her tow alongside when descending the rapids.

On the next slip a combined passenger and cargo flat is nearing completion, and when ready it will accommodate 12 first-class and 100 second-class passengers, besides carrying a large quantity of cargo between decks. This it will be the duty of the *Chutung* to tow on its upward and downward journey, and should the experiment prove a success it is practically certain that the Szechuan Steam Navigation Company will build a fleet of special craft for Yangtze work.

A decision of the utmost importance to the shipbuilding industry has just been arrived at by Lloyd's Register of British and Foreign Shipping, whose surveyors are resident at all the world's principal ports. As a result of deliberations which have extended over a year, and at which all the best known shipowning and shipbuilding experts have assisted, the Committee have come to the conclusion that in view of modern conditions which call for new types of ships, a radical alteration in the present system of constructing and classifying steamers is necessary, and the new regulations will come into operation at once. These new rules will, it is expected, add considerably to the carrying capacity, and by a redistribution of material, the cost of construction to the shipowner will be lessened. These revised regulations have been awaited with a good deal of anxiety on the part of shipbuilders as, in view of the alterations several important contracts have been kept back in order that advantage might be taken of the improvements which, it is said, will have a far-reaching influence on the industry throughout the world.

The new convention between the French Government and the Messageries Maritimes has given rise to much debate in the Chamber of Deputies on the subject of shipping subsidies. The Socialist leader, M. Jaurès, while criticizing the policy of the shipping company, especially with regard to new constructions, expressed approval of the principles which the convention sought to establish. In his opinion, the Government was proceeding on the right lines when it claimed for the State the right of control in return for the grant of a subsidy. Personally he was in favour of the British system of advancing fixed sums on specific terms. He suggested that, as the existing agreement with the Messageries Maritimes would not expire for another three years, a sum of £400,000 for the construction of two new steamers should provisionally be advanced to the company so that the workmen at La Ciotat dockyards could be kept employed. In the meantime Parliament would have an opportunity of elaborating an acceptable form of contract. The initial and radical fault which the Government had committed was in not

inviting tenders for the new mail contract. For the rest national mercantile marines were artificial products and had to be artificially maintained, and some day the nations would realize the futility of competition in this sphere, as they had already recognized the unprofitableness of the sugar bounties.

CHINESE IN THE PHILIPPINES.

CHINESE CONTROL THE ISLAND TRADE.

That the Chinese merchant has lost none of his hold on the retail trade in the provinces all over the archipelago is evident, says the Manila *Cablenews*, from the annual reports of the provincial governors. In the sub-province of Bukidnon, Agusan, the Chinese merchant and the Visayan principal control all the trade. The former is the actual trader and the latter lives on the percentage he secures from the former in payment for the trade he brings in through his influence.

The provincial governor speaking of this fact says that the hold the Chinese merchant has in the province is so great that one lived for three years in the municipal court house, and he adds: "He does not live there now." He also adds that while Filipinos have tried to get a footing as retail merchants they have been unsuccessful, as the Chinamen have them "handicapped by a system of weight and measures that would skin a cat."

In the sub-province of Catanduanes, Albay, the importation of cloths is exclusively in the hands of 120 Chinese merchants. The Chinese also buy up all the hemp and copra, the sole commercial products of the island. In Virac and Bato alone there are 17 establishments run by Chinese.

In Batangas they are the only dealers in sugar.

In Bohol almost all the business has passed into the hands of these merchants.

In Bulacan they control the output of sugar and all the nipa wine industry.

In Cagayan, in the majority of the pueblos, the general stores are owned by Chinese with capitals of from P.10,000 to P.20,000. This is especially so in Aparri. They travel from town and up and down the river and kill all possible competition.

In Ilocos Norte "commerce is almost entirely in the hands of the Chinese who deal in foreign merchandise."

In Occidental Negros "local commerce is almost entirely monopolized by the Chinese, who invade everything."

In Oriental Negros the only manufactory is soap and that is in Chinese hands, as is the greater part of the retail business.

In Pampanga "commerce, properly speaking is confined to the purchase and sale of the principal agricultural products—rice and sugar, the buying of which is, with few exceptions, in the hands of the Chinese."

In Samar the Chinese control all the retail trade and they even compete with the large foreign firms doing a wholesale business.

In Sorsogon the importation and exportation is in the hands of Spaniards and Chinese, only one Filipino being in the business.

In Masbate the commerce is monopolized by the Chinese.

In Surigao a large part of the business in hemp, copra, rice, flour, textiles, etc., is monopolized by the Chinese.

In Tayabas they are the only retailers of the necessities of life.

In Marinduque there are a large number of Chinese stores in every town.

In Union "commerce is in the hands of the Chinese, Macabebe, Hocano and Pangasinan traders who travel from town to town."

In the provinces not mentioned the provincial governors do not go into detail as to the extent of the business relations of respective nationalities.

The Directors of the Kiangpei Ting Coal and Iron Mining Co., Ltd., announce that the negotiations with the Chinese authorities have now been concluded, on the arrangement that the Chinese will pay an indemnity of Tls. 200,000 exclusive of the stock of coal in the Company's possession. A meeting of shareholders will shortly be convened.

AGITATION AGAINST THE CHINESE IN INDO-CHINA.

The *Courrier d'Haiphong* is endeavouring to stir up public sentiment against the dominant influence of the Chinese in Indo-China. Our contemporary says France spent on the conquest of Indo-China a little more than 750 millions of francs. Two loans amounting to 280 millions have been contracted and spent on the development of the country. Every year about 150 millions of francs are demanded by way of taxation to cover the expense of administration. These are the pecuniary sacrifices which it is possible to value. But who can count the moral sacrifices that have been made, the number of soldiers, officials and Colonists who have died in the breach, doing each in his sphere his duty to guarantee to France the free possession of the country to increase her colonial domains? Who, asks the writer, has benefitted by these enormous sacrifices? He sadly answers the question that these sacrifices have only served, with some rare exceptions, to enrich the stranger, "our worst enemy, the enemy who opposed our conquest—the Chinese!" It is complained that the government has outrageously favoured the Chinese to the detriment of the natives of Annam and even of the French themselves. The Administration has been prodigal in its favours to the Chinese in the markets and in the exploitation of monopolies, in Cochin-China, in Tonkin, in Annam and in Cambodia. That the Annamite is not a merchant and that there is need of the Chinese intermediary is described as a gross error to which everybody, Governors and colonists, have been voluntary victims: "we have servilely imitated the usage in the neighbouring colonies of Hongkong and Singapore without perceiving that no comparison can be made between these Colonies which are purely commercial places where the natives do not count, and Indo-China where we find a dense population which it is necessary to administer and to educate." If the Annamite is not a trader it ought to be recognised, says the writer, that commercial faculties are innate in him which only need to be developed, and it is the duty of the French as the protectors of the native to develop his faculties, encourage his efforts and to shake off his torpor. But up to the present they have only served to accentuate the oppressive tutelage. Chinese are constantly coming into Indo-China. They come with the single aim of making a fortune and they stop at nothing in striving for that result. Usurious and rapacious, the Chinaman grasps everything that may help to assuage his insatiable thirst for money, and all the riches he acquires he takes away to his country of origin. "A member of secret societies of which the *mot d'ordre* is hatred of the European, he excites the Annamite against our domination; he foments and encourages all the intrigues against us; proved contrabandier, he employs all the resources of fraud to secretly undermine our authority." Thus is the evil stated in order that the remedy might be found, and our contemporary warns the authorities that if they wish to have a French and not a Chinese Indo-China, it will be prudent to adopt *vis-à-vis* this suspected stranger a policy more in consonance with French interests.

On Saturday an enjoyable "At Home" was held on the Japanese cruiser *Otowa*, to which Rear-Admiral Taragaki, the Captains and Officers of the Japanese Third Squadron invited a large number of Hongkong residents. H.E. the Governor was represented by Captain Mitchell-Taylor A.D.C.

His Honour Mr. Justice Gompertz delivered decisions in two actions in Chambers on Saturday morning. In the suit brought by Mr. P. W. Goldring against Mr. E. G. Jordan to recover \$1,000 due for rent, plaintiff reduced his claim to \$700, and his Lordship entered judgment for that amount. In the action brought by Jackaria Alimahamed against Omar C. Moosa for the recovery of \$274.18 alleged to be due for salary and travelling expenses under an agreement of service, and the counterclaim for \$540, his Lordship gave judgment for plaintiff for the amount paid into Court, \$61.22, and allowed defendant \$30 on the counterclaim.

FAR EASTERN TELEGRAMS.

AN ANGLO-JAPANESE ENTERPRISE POSTPONED.

Tokyo, July 9th.

At an influential meeting it was decided to postpone the Anglo-Japanese Hydro-Electric enterprise.

The flotation of the capital had already been decided upon and it had been intimated that the English promoters were desiring to dispatch engineers.

THE JAPAN SUGAR COMPANY SCANDAL.

SUICIDE OF THE PRESIDENT.

Tokyo, July 11th.

Dr. Sakawa, President of the Dai Nippon Sugar Company, committed suicide by shooting himself with a revolver to-day on the eve of his public trial.

Tokyo, July 13th.

The Directors of the Dai Nippon Sugar Company have been committed for trial.

A PARCEL POST TREATY.

Tokyo, July 13th.

A parcel post treaty has been concluded between Japan and the Straits Settlements.

JAPAN AND KOREA.

A NEW DEVELOPMENT.

Tokyo, July 14th.

The rumours which have been emanating from Seoul, have culminated in a memorandum being signed by Viscount Sone and Mr. Yi, the Premier, placing the Army and the Courts of Justice under the Japanese.

The agreement was the outcome of a conference between Prince Ito, Viscount Sone, Mr. Yi and Mr. Pak, the Home Minister, on Saturday.

The coup was unexpected, and has provoked unrest in Seoul.

The houses of prominent officials are being guarded by the police.

Tokyo, July 16th.

The Press approves of the new arrangement in Korea, remarking that it is a step further in a protectorate regime, and also towards the abolition of ex-territoriality.

JAPANESE STRIKE IN HAWAII.

Tokyo, July 16th.

The strike situation in Hawaii is unchanged.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

THE DELIMITATION OF MACAO.

Peking, July 15th.

The Prince Regent has given instructions to the Grand Secretaries to order His Excellency Kao Erh Chen, the Commissioner appointed to the Macao Delimitation Conference, to report by telegraph all questions in connection with the delimitation of boundaries.

THE CHINESE MILITARY AND NAVAL FORCES.

Peking, July 18th.

An Imperial Edict has been issued emphasizing the importance of the development of the Imperial Army and Navy.

The regulations sanctioned by the late Emperor, the Edict mentions, provided that H.M. the Emperor of China should be commander-in-Chief of the naval and military forces of the Empire, but H. M. Hsuen Tsung being too young to fill that position, appoints his father the Prince Regent to undertake the duties of the post.

Prince Yuk Lang, Prince Tsoi Fu, Prince Tsoi To and Admiral Sah are appointed to assist the Regent.

THE ANGLO-SIAMESE TREATY.

The *Courrier d'Haiphong* in the course of an article on the Anglo-Siamese Treaty says:—

"We shall never know how much the great conceptions, the mysterious designs, the delays and the audacities of our short-sighted politicians have cost us, and will cost us in the future. Here is a Treaty which has just been signed between Siam and England, which is a pendant to the one we obtained from Siam in 1907, and which constitutes for our empire in the Far East a grave economic defeat.

"For its relations with the West, Saigon is henceforth bound to remain tributary to Singapore. The passage which would have freed it—the cutting of the isthmus of Kra, which has so long been asked for—will now never be accomplished or, if it is, it will be British.

"The railway which England is to have built to Bangkok means for that country a double economic victory. It will be a victory both against us, since the line is pointed to the Mekong valley, and against the Germans, since the port of Bangkok will be doomed to mediocrity, if not to ruin. This investment of British capital is calculated to secure for Singapore and Rangoon the trade of Siam and the Mekong valley.

"By the side of that what are the trifling advantages gained by us in our Treaty with Siam? Shall we be able to conjure away this new peril so manifestly directed against us? The situation is clear. If our railway does not reach Laos before that of Siam, we shall doubtless remain the political masters of the Mekong but we shall never draw any economic profit from it. The moment has come boldly to lay down our railway in Siam itself, and to carry out the Barthélemy proposal, the necessity for which has long been evident. We must construct this railway on the right bank of the Mekong, and we must do so at once. We hope there will be no need to insist further on its pressing importance in order to obtain immediately from our politicians the indispensable millions."

ELECTRIC TRAM PROFITS IN MANILA.

The Manila Electric Railroad and Light Company, during the past fiscal year, carried 10,701,859 passengers at an average rate of 9.9 centavos and an average cost of 5.3 centavos per passenger.

The total revenue from transportation amounted to P991,668.31 and the revenue from operation other than transportation to P68,946.96, or a total of operating revenue amounting to P1,060,615.27.

The total operating expenses including taxes amounted to P569,398.78, giving a percentage of operating expenses to gross operating revenue of 53.7. These figures do not include the operation of the Manila suburban line to McKinley and Pasig.

The Manila Suburban line statistics are as follows: revenue from operation P158,432.55; total operating expenses and taxes P71,254.30 showing a percentage of operating expenses to gross operating revenue amounting to 45.5. A total of 2,087,786 passengers was carried, the receipts per passenger being 7.5 centavos and the average expense per passenger being 3.4 centavos.—*Cablenews.*

THE CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT IN JAPAN.

In connection with the recent celebration of Yokohama's Jubilee, and the review of Japan's progress during the fifty years, a correspondent calls the *Japan Gazette's* attention to the following statistics, taken from "The Christian Movement in Japan" for 1908. The figures refer to Protestant missions only:

Native Churches, wholly self-supporting	79
Native Churches, partly self-supporting	350
Preaching Places other than Churches (where the Gospel is proclaimed not less than 6 times per annum)	911
Native ordained ministers	469
Native unordained ministers and helpers	626
Native Bible women	208
Native full Church members	57,830
Native baptized persons, not yet full members	10,554

REVIEW.

Sir Robert Hart: The Romance of a Great Career. By his niece, JULIET BRETON. London: Hutchinson & Co.

The life story of Sir Robert Hart published at the present time in book form runs perhaps some risk of being neglected under the impression that it cannot conceivably add much that is new to the information which the newspapers and magazines have so lavishly provided for their reading during the past twelve months or so. But the romance of the great career of the Inspector-General of Imperial Maritime Customs in China, as it is told by his niece, is truly a fascinating book; few biographies of men of to-day are so well worth reading, and Miss Breton has clothed the bare bones of historical incidents with a wealth of anecdotal illustration that makes the reading light, easy and delightfully attractive.

The story begins with a description of the simple circumstances in which Sir Robert began his seventy-four years ago. The household grew up under the bracing influence of uncompromising doctrines; it was no unusual thing, we are told, for one member to ask another at table, "What have you been doing for God to-day?" Though it does not appear that young Robert Hart was greatly impressed by his surroundings at home,—he was "a clever scattered-brained imp of mischief" long after his school career began,—the strength of character he inherited from sturdy old Puritan stock soon developed. He was suddenly turned into a serious student by the slightest of excuses—nothing more than a resolve conceived in a spirit of pure mischief to defeat a schoolfellow who was confidently reckoning on gaining the Scripture prize. Hart, to the surprise of the school, gained the victory. "Now you see what you can do when you try, Hart," said the Governor of the school. "Why don't you try?" He accepted this new idea as a challenge; it was the turning point in his life, and he studied with an enthusiasm as thorough as it was sudden. Miss Breton remarks that "Surely, if ever a boy was 'led' as the Wesleyans say, to do a certain work, Robert Hart was that boy." There is more than one reference in the book to Sir Robert's own belief in Providential guidance.

For the story of his long and eventful career in China we must refer the reader to the book itself. No summary of its contents can suggest the engaging interest of the narrative. We obviously have here the reminiscences of Sir Robert Hart himself as he has described them in the family circle, with many good stories and little sidelights on history which find no place in the bluebooks, and the result is a charming volume.

Only one quotation we will permit ourselves. It is from one of the early pages in the book, and we chose it not only because it indicates the lasting influence of an early impression, but as serving the purpose of showing the attractive style in which the book is written:—

"At the impressionable age of six or thereabouts an aunt fired the boy's imagination with stories of the departed glories of the Hart family. She used to tell him how their ancestor, Captain van Hardt, came over from Holland with King William, fought at the Battle of the Boyne and greatly distinguished himself; how afterwards, in recognition of his gallant services, the King gave him the township of Kilmoriarty as a reward; how the gallant captain settled himself down there, kept his horses, ate well, drank deep, and left the place so burdened with debt that one of his descendants was obliged to sell it.

"When I'm a man," the little fellow would say solemnly after hearing these things, "I'll buy back Kilmoriarty—and I'll get a title too." Of course she laughed at him quietly, thinking to herself how time and circumstances would separate the lad from the goodly company of his ambitions. Yet, after all, he saw clearer than she; he never wavered in the serious purpose formed before he reached his teens, and he actually did buy back Kilmoriarty when it came on the market years afterwards. As for a title, he gained a knighthood, a grand cross and a baronetcy—thus fulfilling the second part of his promise grandly."

Our copy of the book comes from Messrs Kelly and Walsh.

COMMERCIAL

IMPORTS:—

RICE.

HONGKONG, 19th July.—The downward tendency continue market being dull.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$4.75	to	\$4.80
" Round, Good quality ...	4.85	to	4.90
" Long	4.95	to	5.00
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 ...	5.00	to	5.05
" Garden, " No. 1 ...	4.00	to	4.95
" White	5.10	to	5.15
" Fine Cargo	5.30	to	5.35

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, July, 17th.

Quotations are:—

Malwa New	\$1,125/1,150	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1,100/1,200	do.
Malwa Older	\$1,210/1,240	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$1,250/1,300	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$1,050/1,100	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$900/1,000	do.
Patna New	\$935	per chest.
Patna Old	—	do.
Benares New	\$985	do.
Benares Old	\$980	do.

JAPANESE MARKET.

Kobe, 1st July.—Cotton.—American.—Prices have been on a steady rise since our last report, latest quotation of forward Middling being reported at Yen. 37.50. This high tendency is attributed to unfavourable weather prevailing in the middle and Southern States. It being, however, as yet somewhat early for the business season, no transactions of importance have transpired. "Spot" middling is quoted Yen. 34.50. Indian.—Prices have been maintained on a high level in sympathy with the rise in the American market, combined with which stocks in the home market are small. These facts have checked prospects of any large business resulting in "forward." "Spot" has shown some improvement during the past few days, and quotations have slightly advanced. Branch Yen. 30.00. Akola Khamguam Yen. 28.75. Pongal Yen. 23.50. Chinese.—There is practically nothing doing in this direction. Best is quoted at Yen. 29.75. Common Yen. 27.25. Shirtings.—Market is firmer and the movement of stocks shows some improvement. Cotton Goods and Fancies.—Market continue promising. Worsteds and Wollens.—Little or no change to report, a few enquires are recorded at low rates. Metals.—Market depressed; quotations for nearly all articles have declined. Sugar.—Cane.—Raw.—Java.—The market is lifeless, no stocks. Formosa.—The market is strong, a good business doing. Osaka Refined.—At the auction held by the Trust Sales Office on the 23rd June, 3,500 bags of Osaka sugar, 1,000 bags Kobe, and 1,000 bags of Yokohama manufacture were offered but all were withdrawn. Rice.—No business, market weak.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co. in their Piece Goods Report, dated Shanghai 9th July, 1909, state:—The United States Government Bureau report on the condition of the Cotton Crop at the end of June, namely 74.6, seems to have struck right home and has caused a universal advance in prices. The end of May report 81.1, was rather under the average of the last 14 years, namely 83.1, but this June one is 10% below the average for the same period, showing that there is obviously something wrong. Liverpool prices have steadily advanced until this morning comes 672d. for Mid American "spot," while 638d. was received yesterday for September/October option, when "spot" was only 6.68d. Egyptian has advanced a farthing on the week to 9d. These prices are evidently a reflection of New York, where 12.28 and 12.32 cents were quoted for October and December respectively, but today 12.20 cents comes for the earlier month. The significance of this advance in the raw material does not seem to have impressed the buyers on this market yet; apparently it is only the fall in Exchange that affects them. This is readily seen by the very inadequate way in which prices have responded here, many instances

being noticeable at the Auctions where actually a decline has taken place. On the home markets the effect is much more pronounced, prices having already advanced to prohibitive heights. Of course there is much more enquiry here, but it is based for the most part on previous prices and has not led to many fresh transactions. It has, however, had a me influence on Native holders, chiefly of American goods, who are managing to get a slight, but not at all an adequate advance on each sale. In Manchester makes a small inquiry is being met in some quarters in certain classes of goods that are getting low in stock, notably best 10 and 12-lbs. Shirtings, but for 8 1/2 lbs. Shirtings and common 10-lbs. there is not any demand at all. White Shirtings have been inclined to stick, but there is a better enquiry from Hankow which should assist them. To the second hand holders of American goods must be credited the cream of the business this week, and although it is of course difficult to form a very correct idea of the extent, we are credibly informed that it amounts to fully 20,000 bales of all kinds. The selling has been confined to the weaker holders, others refusing to listen to the prices now current. Tientsin appears to have got in quietly during the depressed period, the demand now coming chiefly from Newchwang, which would point to the fact that the Manchurian buyers have given up the idea of trying to freeze out holders here. The prices at which the goods are now obtainable should certainly be attractive enough and assist to rehabilitate these goods in the Northern markets. Needless to say the Manchester market is very strong, quotations being quite unapproachable in fact. This should serve to assist things here, and with a little judicious manipulation of supplies a more healthy situation created. The Export of Plain Cottons shows a welcome falling off for the month of June, being only 33 million yards. To give an idea of the strength of the market in Manchester two and three fold Yarns, which had already been reported up to 10d. were advised by wire received this morning, a further half penny higher per pound. The prices for all Yarns on this market are booming and, being still under the cost of replacing, stocks are very strongly held, Importers having practically regained the control now, both in Indian and Japanese Local spinnings are following suit, but Spinners must now be puzzling how the supply of the raw staple will be sustained in the not far distant future, for with the continuous rain the prospects for the new crop are far from bright. Beyond what we have already said regarding Manchester makes there is little to note. It is the general complaint that Jeans have been overdone—every one bucking in has spoilt the market. It is difficult to see the cause of the falling off in the demand for 8 1/2-lbs. Shirtings that used to be in universal and continuous request. What is taking their place? All attempts to do forward business have been frustrated, and many are regretting that they temporised and tried to get better terms when they had the opportunity of buying during the past two or three weeks. In American makes we cannot find that much has been done from first hand holders. Two lots of Sheetings of 2,000 pieces each are reported at Tls. 4.65 for Blue Lion and Tls. 4.70 for Clifton C C C and that is all we can trace. Resales of Drills are reported as follows:—Lindale Tls. 4.10, Ring Dog Tls. 4.30, Ring Calf Head Tls. 4.32 1/2, Piedmont B and Enoree F F Tls. 4.40, Prescott Tls. 4.47 1/2, Standing Horse and Standing Stag Tls. 4.65, 4 Parrots Tls. 4.67 1/2, Small Horse Head Tls. 4.70, Clifton A Tls. 4.80, Calf's Head and Cameron Tls. 4.90, Pacolet Tls. 4.95 and pepperell Tls. 5.15. In Sheetings the following prices are reported to us:—Buffalo L Tls. 3.55, Blue Elephant and 4 Apples Tls. 4.30, Buffalo A Tls. 4.37 1/2, Orr A and Enterprise A Tls. 8.65, Abbeville Tls. 4.67 1/2, 4.70, Pelzer A Tls. 4.70, Loray A and Large Tiger Tls. 4.75, Massachusetts and Atlantic A Tls. 4.77 1/2, Cameron Tls. 4.80, Owl Tls. 4.85, Whitney Tls. 4.90, Indian Head Tls. 4.95, Buck's Head Tls. 5.00. Some 40 yard Pepperell Jeans have been re-sold at Tls. 4.95. In American Shirtings resales of 3 Eagle and Drum at Tls. 3.25 and Blue Buffalo L L at Tls. 3.60, and in Cotton Flannels about 250 cases Indian Head and Ellerton Q Tls. 4.50, Ellerton P Tls. 4.70, Tremont G A Tls. 6.10, Ellerton A Tls. 6.50 and Tremont A Tls. 6.60. The market is strong and if holders are only firm prices must go up. The Auctions have, on the whole shown a firmer market. At to-day's sale the improvement in White Shirtings and Fast Black Cotton Italians were the most striking. Woollens went at decidedly firmer prices.

JAPANESE MARKET.

EXPORTS:—

TEA.

Kobe, 1st July, 1909.

Tea.—Settlements to date amount to Pels. 28,500, or practically the same as done last year. The supply of First Crop is now exhausted. Second Crop teas are expected to arrive in a few days. Copper.—Market lifeless. Fish Oil.—Prices lower but little business. Rice.—A reaction has set in and market is weaker. Cotton Yarn.—In sympathy with Cotton, market has advanced, present quotations being higher than have been recorded for a considerable time past, in consequence of which new business is strictly limited. Vegetable Wax.—Market firm but no demand for export at prices asked by sellers. Matting.—No change to report, there has been a continued scarcity of stocks. In a large measure the recent weather has prevented goods arriving from the interior. Straw Braid & Chip Braid.—Slight advances were recorded during the past fortnight, due to the arrival of further enquiries, the market closing firm with upward tendency.

Amoy.—The Export of Tamsui Oolongs to June 24th this season, all shipped at Keelung, has been 4,087,791 lbs. 3,514,884 lbs same time last year. To London the export to June 28th was 172,174 lbs, 84,955 lbs same time last year. These shipments also were from Tamsui and Keelung. On May 26th there was a direct shipment of 12,000 lbs from Amoy to Manila against 18,638 lbs same time last year. The arrivals at Amoy this season have been only 30 half-chests.

FOOCHOW JULY, 2ND.—The following settlements have taken place during the week:—Congous—7,881 half-chests. Souchongs—5,618 half-chests. Scanted Teas—2,211 boxes. Flowery Pekers—262 chests.

The Tea Export from commencement of Season to date has been:—

	Total lbs.
Austria	258,991
France	318,915
Germany	1,195,521
Holland	392,348
London	1,536,249
Russia	134,199
Other Countries	163,772
South America	17,288
Australia & N. Z.	111,516
U. S. & Canada	219,581
South Africa	—
Coastwise Southward ..	20,027
Coastwise Northward ..	24,164
Total Shipments	4,377,561

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG 19th July.—The above market is at a standstill, and prices remain as last quoted

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, 7th July.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul
Cowhides, best selected	Tls. 37.00
Do. seconds	" 33.00
Buffalo hides, best selected	" 21.50
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour,	" —
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each	" —
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	" 7.90
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu	" 6.90
Green China Grass, Szechuen	" —
Jute	" —
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	" 10.50
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheng	" —
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	" —
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	" 9.50
Animal Tallow	" 10.70
Gallnuts, usual shape	" 15.25
Gallnuts, plum do.	" 19.50
Tobacco, Pingchow	" —
Tobacco, Wongkong	" —
Black Bristles, Bifings	" —
Feathers, grey and/or white Wild Duck ..	" —
Turmeric	" —
Sesamum Seed	" 5.85
Sesamum Seed Oil	" —
Wood Oil	" 9.50
Tea Oil	" —

Per M. M. steamer *Tourane*, sailed on 6th July. For Marseilles—46 pkgs tea, 3 cases silk goods, 51 pkgs hair, 75 cases anis otoile, 95 bales raw silk, 1 case revolver, 200 bales waste silk, 5 cases feathers, 10 cases essential oil, 28 cases hats, and 5 cases ylang ylang. For Lyons—374 bales raw silk. For Barcelona—11 cases silk goods. For Bordeaux—78 rolls mats and 100 cases Cassia. For Monbas—a—4 cases camphor wood box. For Milan—35 bales raw silk. For St. Chamond—61 bales raw silk. For Tamatave—13 pkgs tea and 7 cases provisions. For Havre—8 pkgs p'effects, 3 cases human hair, 90 cases gomme elami. For London—20 cases hats and 56 pkgs provisions. For Aden—100 pkgs galangal.

Per P. & O. steamer *Assaye*, sailed on 10th July, 1909.—For Hamburg—3 cases bird feather. For Manchester—80 bales waste silk. For Gibraltar—1 case silk piece goods, 2 cases curios. For Milan—39 bales raw silk. For Lyons—194 bales raw silk. For London—4,311 packages tea, 60 bales raw silk, 50 bales waste silk, 8 cases silk, 2 cases bamboo hats, 1 case grass cloth. For Marseilles—55 bales raw silk, 120 bales waste silk, 15 cases birds feather.

HONGKONG SHARE QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 16th July, 1909.—The market has ruled dull, and almost featureless. Rates generally speaking show but little change but incline to weakness, and the volume of business transacted during the week is but small. Exchange on London T.T. closes at 1/8½, and on Shanghai at 74½.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have gradually declined during the week to 990, after small sales at 1,015, 1,010, 1,005, 1,000, 995, and 990, the market closing steady at 987½ buyers. The Corporation has authorized the publication of the following figures, subject to audit, for the half year ended 30th June. Proposed dividend of £2 per share, \$750,000 to Silver Reserve, and to carry forward about \$2,000,000. Nationals are enquired for at the improved rate of 54.

MARINE INSURANCE.—Cantons have found further buyers at 195, and North Chinas have improved to 114 without sales. China Traders are now enquired for at 88. Unions remain steady at 82½ without business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have changed hands in further small lots at 347½, closing steady at that rate. Chinas continuing in demand have improved to 116 after sales at 114 and 115.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao continue quiet with buyers at 32½, and sellers at 32½. The Company subject to audit declares a div of \$1.25 and carry forward and write off \$71,190. Shells have improved in sympathy with a rise on the London market to 71½, but only a few shares have changed hands locally. Other stocks under this heading call for no remarks.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been placed during the week at 137½, the market closing with buyers at that rate. Luzons remain at 15 with no business to report.

MINING.—Chinese Engineerings have improved in the North to 18½. Langkats show a decline and are now quoted at 1000. We have nothing further to report under this heading.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have changed hands in unimportant lots at 67, and close steady at that rate. Kowloons have been placed at 57 and 58 closing with buyers at the former rate. Shanghai Docks after a sudden fall to 74 in the North have recovered and close with buyers at 77. Hongkew wharfs have declined to 150, which is the latest quotation from the north by wire.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Kowloon Lands have changed hands at 107 and 108 closing with sellers at the latter rate. West Points after small sales at 46½ close with further sellers. Hotels continue in demand without bringing any shares on the market and at time of closing old shares are enquired for at 71 and new at 42, without in-

ducing business. Humphreys have been done in small lots at 9½ and are still wanted at that. Shanghai Lands have advanced to 122 with buyers.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have ruled firm and the rate has advanced to 136, Internationals have also improved to 92, Laou Kung Mows to 113 and Soy Chees to 405.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Borneos have declined to 13½. Cements to 8.90 both with sellers after sales. Electrics are enquired for at the enhanced rate of 20½ and Ices at 157½. Ropes have changed hands at 25 Watkins at 3.50 and 3.60. Langkats are down to 1000 in the north, but the rate is quoted a nominal one.

Quotations are as follows:—

STOCKS	PAID UP	QUOTATIONS
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai	\$125	\$987½, buyers
National B. of China	£6	\$54, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12/6d.	\$10½, buyers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$13½, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$6.90, sellers
China Provident	\$10	\$9.00, sales
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo Cotton S. & W.	Tls. 50	Tls. 136
Hongkong C. S. Co.	\$10	\$8½, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 92
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 113
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 405
Dairy Farm Co.	\$6	\$16½, sales & sel.
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$57, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$67, sales
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$9
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 77
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 153
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$11, sellers
G. Island Cement Co.	\$10	\$8.90, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$210, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$20½, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$71, (old) buy.
	\$25	\$42, buyers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$157½, buyers
H'kong Rope M. Co.	\$10	\$25, sales
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$195, sales & sel.
China Fire	\$20	\$116, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$88, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$347½, sal. & buy.
North China	\$25	Tls. 114, buyers
Union	\$100	\$22½, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$225
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$108, sellers
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$9½, sales & sel.
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$30, sellers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 122
West Point Building	\$50	\$40½, sales & sel.
Mining—		
S. F. des C. du T'kin	Fr. 250	\$625, buyers
Raub	18/10d.	\$8½, sellers
Peak Tramways Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$14, buyers
Philippine Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$11
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$137½, sales
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$15
Robinson Piano Co.	\$50	\$50, sellers
Steamship Companies—		
China and Manila	\$25	\$10, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$36
H., Canton & M.	\$15	\$32½, sellers
Indo-China S. N. Co.	£5	\$44½
Shell Transport Co.	£1	\$71½
Star Ferry	\$10	\$26
South China M. Post	\$25	\$24, sellers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$5½, buyers
Stores & Dispensaries—		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$12
Wm. Powell, Ltd.	\$7	\$4, sellers
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$3½, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$8.70, sellers
Weissmann, Ltd.	\$100	\$150, buyers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$13
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$300
	\$10	\$11, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

EXCHANGE.

HONGKONG, July 19th.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/8½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/8½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/8½
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	1/8½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/9½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/9½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	218
Credits 4 months' sight	222
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	177
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	42½
Credits, 60 days' sight	43½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	130½
Bank, on demand	130½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	130½
Bank on demand	130½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	74½
Private, 30 days' sight	75½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	84½
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	85½
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	74
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	104
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	9½ p.o. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	9 p.o. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	86½
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$11.45
GOLD LEAF 100 fine, per tael	\$59.80
BAR SILVER per oz	23½

FREIGHT.

Hankow, 7th July.—Per Conference Steamers To London and Northern Continental ports 47/6 per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 47/6 per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General Cargo 32/- per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez), Tea 37/6 per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (Overland) per carload; Tea & \$1.50 cents per lb gross less than carload Tea & \$1.75 cents per lb gross; plus river freight. To Shanghai:—Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 2.50 per ton, weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

AIRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

July:—	
ARRIVALS.	
9, Assaye, British str., from Shanghai.	
9, Benlarig, British str., from London.	
9, Bourbon, French str., from Saigon.	
9, Fomoye Maru, Jap. str., from Dairen.	
9, Fuku Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.	
9, Johanne, German str., from Hoihow.	
9, Kansu, British str., from Wuhu.	
9, Taming, British str., from Manila.	
9, Yeddo, Swedish str., from Singapore.	
10, Aki Maru, Jap. str., from Seattle.	
10, Bushu Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.	
10, Frithjof, Nor. str., from Hoihow.	
10, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.	
10, Michael Jebson, Ger. str., from Hoihow.	
10, Nanchang, British str., from Chefoo.	
11, Anhui, British str., from Shanghai.	
11, Choising, German str., from Bangkok.	
11, Dagny, Norwegian str., from Taingtau.	
11, Deucalion, British str., from Shanghai.	
11, Devawongse, German str., from Bangkok.	
11, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.	
11, Japan, British str., from Kobe.	
11, Pakhoi, British str., from Weihaiwei.	
11, Titan, British str., from Singapore.	
11, Yetorofu Maru, Jap. str., from Kobe.	
12, Andalusia, German str., from Singapore.	
12, Carnarvonshire, Brit. str., from London.	
12, Childar, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.	
12, Hopsang, British str., from Hongay.	
12, Knivsberg, German str., from Hoihow.	
12, Onsang, British str., from Java.	

12, Signal, German str., from Hoihow.
 12, Telamon, British str., from Liverpool.
 12, Wakamatsu M., Jap. str., from Wakamatsu.
 12, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
 12, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
 13, Amigo, German str., from Manila.
 13, Atlantis, Am. str., from Manila.
 13, Cardiganshire, Brit. str., from Shanghai.
 13, Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.
 13, Fiume, German str., from Swatow.
 13, Halotis, Dutch str., from Palembang.
 13, Kumeric, British str., from Manila.
 13, Mathilde, German str., from Chefoo.
 13, Mausang, British str., from Sandakan.
 13, Saint Patrick, British str., from Keelung.
 13, Solstad, Nor. str., from Swatow.
 13, Taiyuan, British str., from Australian.
 13, Victoria, Swedish str., from Haiphong.
 14, Bombay M., Jap. str., from Bombay.
 14, Eudo Maru, Jap. str., from Wakamatsu.
 14, Haitan, British str., from Swatow.
 14, Hangsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 14, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 14, Kowloon, German str., from Wuhu.
 14, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 14, Linan, British str., from Shanghai.
 14, Ningchow, British str., from Tacoma.
 14, Petchaburi, German str., from Hoihow.
 14, P. Ludwig, Ger. str., from Bremen.
 14, P. Sigismund, German str., from Kobe.
 14, Syria, British str., from Singapore.
 14, Yorek, Ger. str., from Snanghai.
 15, China, American str., from Yokohama.
 15, E. of India, British str., from Shanghai.
 15, Glenfalloch, Brit. str., from Singapore.
 15, Gregory Apar, Br. str., from Calcutta.
 15, Helene, German str., from Hoihow.
 15, Kaifuku Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
 15, Kwangse, British str., from Moji.
 15, Kweiyang, British str., from Wuhu.
 15, Simla, British str., from Yokohama.
 15, Taikoson Maru, Jap. str., from Miike.
 16, Daigi Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
 16, Kiev, Russian str., from Odessa.
 16, Silesia, Austrian str., from Singapore.
 16, Tean, British str., from Manila.

July:--

DEPARTURES.

9, Fri, Norwegian str., for Haiphong.
 9, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 9, Kaifong, British str., for Amoy.
 9, Kumano Maru, Jap. str., for Manila.
 9, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 9, Nord, British str., for Singapore.
 9, Seneca, British str., for Manila.
 9, Tamba Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 10, Assaye, British str., for Europe, &c.
 10, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 10, Nippon Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
 10, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
 10, Seminole, British str., for Manila.
 10, Sexta, German str., for Tsingtau.
 10, Tjimahi, Dutch str., for Amoy.
 11, Benlarig, British str., for Nagasaki.
 11, Chenan, British str., for Shanghai.
 11, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 11, Elgin, British str., for Amoy.
 11, Hinsang, British str., for Yokohama.
 11, Pheumpanh, British str., for Saigon.
 11, Proteus, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 12, Capri, Italian str., for Singapore.
 12, Chunsang, British str., for Moji.
 12, Yeddo, Swedish str., for Shanghai.
 13, Carnarvonshire, Brit. str., for Shanghai.
 13, Chowfa, German str., for Bangkok.
 13, Deucalion, British str., for Singapore.
 13, Haiching, British str., for Amoy.
 13, Haiyang, British str., for Swatow.
 13, Hongkong, French str., for Hoihow.
 13, Laisang, British str., for Singapore.
 13, Taming, British str., for Manila.
 14, Foochow, British str., for Cebu.
 14, Frithjof, Norwegian str., for Haiphong.
 14, Fukui Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 14, Halotis, Dutch str., for Amoy.
 14, Kueichow, British str., for Swatow.
 14, Michael Jensen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
 14, Monteagle, British str., for Amoy.
 14, Rajah, German str., for Rajang.
 14, Yetorofu Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
 16, Andalusia, German str., for Shanghai.
 16, Cardiganshire, British str., for Straits.
 16, Choysang, British str., for Ningpo.
 16, Fiume, German str., for Saigon.
 16, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 16, Prinz Ludwig, Ger. str., for Shanghai.

16, Prinz Sigismund, Ger. str., for Australia.
 16, Simla, British str., for Singapore.
 16, Taishun, British str., for Shanghai.
 16, Titan, British str., for Kobe.
 16, Yorek, German str., for Europe, &c.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per *Andalusia*, from Singapore, Mr Erffe.
 Per *Kumeric*, from Manila, Mr Deviblis.
 Per *Choysang*, from Shanghai, Mr Dobinson.
 Per *Prinz Sigismund*, from Kobe, Mr A. Tigger.
 Per *Cheongshing* from Tientsin, Lieut. C. E. G. Davidson.
 Per *Haimun*, from Coast Ports, Messrs Leyyatt, Anbert and Sanuder.
 Per *Anhui*, from Shanghai, Captains Garnet and Vincent, and Miss Gleyne.
 Per *Simla*, from Yokohama, for Hongkong, Mr Warre; for Penang, Mr R. H. Waller; for London, Mr H. Dare.
 Per *Gregory Apar*, from Calcutta, &c., for Hongkong, Mr Sharp; for Kobe, Mrs Robertson and Miss Yukiosan.
 Per *Aki Maru*, from Seattle, Dr. and Mrs. J. E. Snodgrass, Lieut. Innes, Lieut. Anderson and Mr. John Wagner.
 Per *Haiching*, from Coast Ports, Mr and Mrs Thomas, 2 children and nurse, Mr and Mrs Lee and child, Messrs Mickle, Rushwaldi and Yand.
 Per *Taming*, from Manila, Mr and Mrs Carlos, Mrs Rodrigues, Mrs Cartwright, Mrs Whitney, Dr Sostoa, Dr Shelley, Messrs Marcus, Ramos and A. J. Israel.

Per *Taiyuan*, from Melbourne, &c., Mrs G. M. Prentiss, Misses Lee, Messrs Scott, Thompson, Lindstedt, Mitchell, Brooke, Blechynden, Rafael and Smith.

Per *Syria*, from London, for Hongkong, Major Logan, Messrs G. Stroud and R. Mooney; for Shanghai, Mr C. Lockert; from Penang, for Yokohama, Mr H. Dibbin.

Per *Empress of India*, from Vancouver, &c., Mr and Mrs L. T. Comart, Mrs Willford, Lt. W. L. Fielding, Comdr. T. Acton, Rev. L. Hugh, Capt. Arthur, Messrs E. E. White and R. Robinson.

Per *Yuensang*, from Manila, Mr and Mrs F. E. Burgers, Mr and Mrs W. T. Davies and child, Major and Mrs G. A. Skinner and three children, Mrs F. J. Thompson, Mrs Herbert, Mrs E. L. Golding, Mrs B. Palmer and child, Misses Holly and Ross, Messrs E. Ringshot, F. L. Strong, E. Moller, C. L. Turner and J. Ball.

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